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Pro-Bowl year earns Brees \$8M contract

\$1.00

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Scene magazine Volume 63. No. 321

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005

U.S. investigating wounding of

freed Italian journalist in Iraq

Intel agent killed when U.S. troops fired on car at checkpoint

Finding new jobs no sweat for injured vets



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ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Blake murder trial: Jurors in the Rob ert Blake murder trial spent about 90 minutes deliberating before going home for the weekend.

They started their work Friday in Los Angeles after hearing the actor's lawyer, M. Gerald Schwartzbach, portray the prosecution's key witnesses as liars and accuse the police of rushing to judgment while bun-gling the investigation. Deliberations are scheduled to resume Monday

Antichrist murder case: A father who said he murdered his son because he believed the 4-year-old was the Antichrist was sentenced Friday to life in prison without parole

Ivan Henk pleaded guilty in Papillion, Neb., last month to first-degree murder, a crime he acknowledged during a 2003 court hearing when he shouted to the boy's mother that he killed Brendan Gonzalez cause he was the Antichrist. He had 666 on his forehead

Tobacco lawsuit: A jury on Friday cleared tobacco maker Philip Morris of liability in the death of a man who smoked for 35 years and alleged the company misled him by failing to acknowledge the habit was

addictive and caused cancer. Fredric Reller, 64, first sued Philip Mor-ris in November 2001. A jury cleared the nation's biggest cigarette maker last August of negligence and misrepresentation in the lawsuit, but deadlocked on one count claiming the company fraudulently concealed the dangers of smoking.

Flight attendant bomb threat: An off-duty flight attendant accused of leaving a bomb note on an airplane has pleaded guilty to intentionally interfering with a flight federal pro agreement that was filed Friday in federal prosecutors said Friday

Prosecutor Debra T. Phillips said Gay Wilson accepted a plea agreement that was filed Friday in federal court in Nashville.

Gabor crash lawsuit: Zsa Zsa Gabor, who was seriously injured in a 2002 car crash, has settled her lawsuit against the driver for

\$2 million, her attorney said Friday. Gabor, 88, suffered broken bones in the November crash and received stitches to close wounds to her head, hands, arms and legs. The film and television actress was a passenger in the front seat of a car that struck a light pole on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood.

Fla. right-to-die case: State welfare officials are investigating about 30 allegations that Michael Schiavo abused, neglected or exploited his wife, Terri, the severely brain-damaged woman whose life he has been fighting to end, according to a court document made public Friday. In the petition filed last week, the state De-

partment of Children & Families asked the judge who ordered Terri Schiavo's feeding tube removed on March 18 to postpone his order until the agency can investigate 34 pages of materials documenting the alleged abuse of Terri Schiavo

Religious Gibson stalker: An Idaho drifter who claimed he was on a mission from



II.S. tsunami aid: Anna Gorski introduces four-month-old Tristan to his father. Petty Officer 1st Class Chad Gorski on Friday after the USS Abraham Lincoln pulled into its home port of Everett, Wash. It was the first time Gorski had seen his son in person, as he had been onboard the Lincoln since it left in October 2004 for a four-month deployment in the western Pacific. It was diverted in December to south Asia, where it was the hub of a relief operation to help victims of the devastating Dec. 26 tsunami.

God to pray with actor-director Mel Gibson was convicted of felony stalking Friday in Los Angeles

Jurors deliberated for less than three hours before finding 34-year-old Zack Sin-clair guilty. He could face 3 years in prison.

Gruesome windshield death: An appeals court upheld the murder conviction of a woman who hit a homeless man with her car and then left him to die after he became lodged in her windshield.

The 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth, Texas, upheld Chante Mallard's conviction Thursday. Her attorney had argued that the evidence was legally and factually insuffi-cient to convict her in the death of Gregory Glenn Biggs

vell hospitalization: The Rev. Falwell left a Lynchburg hospital Friday morning after a stay of almost two weeks while he battled pneumonia.

"I'm a little hoarse, but I'm alive and well and glad to hear from you," Falwell said from his Lynchburg home, where his family gathered Friday

World

Iran nuclear program: Iran said Saturday it will never agree to permanently stop mak-ing nuclear fuel and warned that a more unstable Middle East would result from a bid to haul Tehran before the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Any effort by Washington to bring Te-hran's suspended uranium enrichment program under the Security Council scrutiny is a dangerous path, warned Hasan Rowhani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator.

War on terrorism

Training Iraqi troops: Germany will train 250 more Iraqi soldiers in the United Arab Emirates, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said Saturday, signaling further cooperation with the United States from an ally that strongly opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Germany will send 70 military trainers

the United Arab Emirates in April and May for the new round of training, Schroeder said during a stop in Abu Dhabi, capital of the Emirates

Pakistan militants hunt: Pakistani troops raided a militant hide-out Saturday in a remote tribal area near Afghanistan, triggering a shootout that left two foreigners dead and

11 people arrested, an army spokesman said. The troops also seized a large number of weapons in the raid near Miran Shah, the main town in northwest Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, said Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan

Guantanamo investigation: The commander of the U.S. detention center for terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said Friday he suspended three Army offic-

ers accused of "personal misconduct."

Brig. Gen. Jay W. Hood, commander of Task Force Guantanamo, said he suspended two lieutenant colonels and one colonel and referred an allegation against a fourth officer to the Army.

Correction

In a story in Friday's editions about wounded reservists protesting poor health care, Army Deputy Surgeon General Maj. Gen. Joseph Webb was incorrectly identified.

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'Borrowing, buying and begging'

DODDS teachers incurring thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses waiting for household goods

By SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

Nearly eight months after seeing her household goods shipped off, Kardice Brown still is awaiting six of seven crates containing

her belongings Two fellow Denartment of Defense Dependents Schools teachers fared better; they got their stuff after nearly six months of waiting.

The worst of it, the teachers said, is that they have incurred thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses for which they will see no reimbursement

The saga started this summer when the three were transferred Bahrain DODDS-Europe schools after terrorrism threats prompted the U.S. military to evacuate dependents from the Persian Gulf country. In mid-September, it made an assignment to Bahrain an unaccompanied tour.

When the schools' student population dropped from 700 to about 390, so did the need for teachers, said Linda Curtis, superintendent of the DODDS' Isles District. No dependents of military personnel attend the school; students are children of State Department employees or international, tu-ition-paying students. Some teachers were moved to

other schools. Their household goods did not

always follow them as planned. "Borrowing, buying and begging," Brown said in describing first six months as a fourth-grade teacher at Laies Ele-

mentary School in the Azores. The problem of the delayed



PHOTO II I HETPATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Store and Strie

shipment is limited to those three teachers, whose goods were lost in the shuffle of disorder of a base in the midst of evacuating its non-essential residents and a Navy "crew swap" on base, said Lt. Cmdr. Darryl Gordon, personal property officer in Bahrain.

The teachers' goods were "caught in the stop-movement

order," caused by the evacuation. Because of the evacuation, we didn't want any dependents' shipments moving into the area," Gordon said. "In a stop-movement, everything is stopped and then we go back to each and every one to unblock and redirect.

The DODDS employees' shipments are handled by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, the same organization that moves military

Usually, those moving through a permanent change of station are told to expect to receive their household goods within 60 days of movers packing them up.

Sixty days came and went for Sam Ochinang and his family. who transferred to Incirlik High School in Turkey, and had prenared to live in the warmer climates of the Middle East

But the cold winter in Turkey forced them to invest in winter clothing, and their shipment gone astray required that they buy linens, cookware and rent a car, Ochinang said.

The only funds available to offset moving costs are four months of Temporary Quarters Subsistence Allowance, paid to cover costs such as meals and laundry.

"There is no other fund that kicks in" to reimburse them for expenditures because of the delayed shipments, said Tom El-linger, DODDS' Mediterranean District superintendent.

Steve Osborne, European director for the Overseas Federation of Teachers, is representing the teachers in an appeal for reimbursement, but said he's not hopeful they'll prevail because no rem-

Treasured items missing

When the U.S. military closed Bahrain to dependents because of terrorist threats, several teachers were moved to new Department

of Defense Dependents Schools In the case of three of them, their household goods became delayed in the shuffle. As a result, the teachers have had to go through a chaotic winter and months of teaching without many of their pos-

In 17 years of teaching, Kardice Brown, rerouted from Bahrain to Lajes Elementary School in the Azores, has developed quite a collection of resource materials she uses to teach her fourth-grade stu-

That's what she says she misses most among the seven crates of household goods floating somewhere on the planet.

She's been told her goods were in Bahrain at one point, and for a reason no one has been able to explain, now are somewhere in the United States.

"I've been told a lot of things. None of them good explanations, said Brown, 58. "I'm old, old and tired and just don't want to deal with this anymore.

When the Bahrain school was closed, it ended Kathy Sweeney's hope of finishing her long teaching career in a country she'd always dreamed of living in

Because of her narrow field as a reading specialist, Sweeney was redirected to her only option within the DODDS system. This fall, she started her 28th year with DODDS by taking a job at La Madd-

alena Elementary School on the Italian island of Sardinia. Sam Ochinang, shifted to Incirlik High School in Turkey, is entitled to seek monetary compensation for damage to some of his household goods that finally arrived. But he'll never recoup the sentimental price for the ruined baseball cards and Marvel superhero comic books his now-college-aged son has collected since child-

hood he said He hasn't yet told his son, away at school in California. He's looking for the right words.

"I'll tell him," Ochinang sighed. "I'll be as straightforward as pos-

- Sandra Jontz

edy exists within the military, education or transportation systems for such expenditures.

"I don't think there's much we

can do, but we're trying to recoup some of the costs they had to pay out," Osborne said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: iontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

DODDS parents, teachers debate evolution vs. creationism



PHOTO BY RON JENSEN/Stare and Strings

Greg Klaes, a science teacher at Lakenheath Middle School at RAF Feltwell, England, believes the teaching of evolution and creationism cannot co-exist in the same classroom. Some schools in America have introduced creationism or intelligent design in its curriculum.

By RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

So far, the Department of Defense Education Activity is a bystander in the battle to teach an alternative to evolution in the science classroom.

"We have not been approached by people asking that we include creationism or intelligent design into the curriculum," said Kim Day, who is in charge of the science curriculum for DODEA schools, where instruction in evolution is in line with national standards

However, the battle is under way in at least 18 states to add either one or both alternatives to science lessons. Creationism accepts the Bible's claim that the universe has changed little since God created it a few thousand years ago. Intelligent design suggests that nature's complexity required some intelligent guiding

In Maryland, a school board member was outvoted in his attempt to offer an alternative to evolution while Kansas residents are debating a proposal that intelligent design be added to the science curriculum.

A judge in Georgia recently ruled unconstitutional the two-year-old practice of placing stickers on science textbooks that claim evolution is a theory, not a fact Debates continue in other states, all asking that Charles Darwin's idea of evolution be placed

alongside a more religious-based

alternative. Some parents of Department of Defense Dependent Schools students would like to see an alternative to evolution offered, but have made no attempt to force a curric-

ulum change. "If you're going to allow [evolution] to be taught, use all of sci-" said Maj. Mark Kerr of the 100th Logistics Readiness Squad-

ron at RAF Mildenhall, England. There is, he said, evidence that disproves evolution, but that proof is absent from the curriculum. He and his wife, Amy, send their kids to DODDS schools, but

teach creationism at home. Greg Klaes, a science teacher at Lakenheath Middle School at RAF Feltwell, England, said creationism and intelligent design have no place in his classroom.

"They are not science," he said. He said science is a search for truth. Creationists believe they have found the truth, he said, and intelligent design rules out the

randomness of nature.
When his students bring up God's role in anything scientific, Klaes said, "I explain to them that discussions about religion stop at the door frame. Staff Sgt. Josh and Denise Sand-

ifer can cite several reasons why they teach their children at home. evolution's place in the DODDS curriculum is one of I don't believe in evolution,

Josh Sandifer said. "I believe what the Bible teaches Both Kerr and Sandifer, who is

with the 100th Maintenance Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, said evolution is just a theory.

Klaes, however, said, "They're misusing the vocabulary of sci-

Evolution is a scientific theory, which is more than just a guess, he said. Scientific theory refers to a collection of data that explain a phenomenon of nature.

For his part, Kerr sees little dif-ference and said. "It's almost as if [evolution] is a religion.

ail Ron Jensen at: senr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Airman sentenced

SPANGDAHLEM, Germany airman received a one-month prison sentence and a bad conduct discharge last week for using the drug Ecstasy.

Airman 1st Class Sabrina N. Faz, of the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was also demoted to the lowest enlisted grade, according to an Air Force news

Faz pleaded guilty to using the controlled substance at a court-martial hearing, the release said. No further in-

6 Europe stores honored

Six commissaries in the U.S. Europe an Command earned honorable mention in an annual worldwide merchandising contest conducted by the Defense Commissary Agency, according to a DECA news release.

The contest, conducted over a five-week period last spring, divided stores into three categories: super, large and small. The commissaries were judged for their efforts in creating original, creative and successful sales displays.

In the superstore category, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and Aviano Air Base, Italy, received honorable men-The category winners were Mc-Chord Air Force Base, Wash., and Yongsan South Korea

Also cited for honorable mention was Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, in the large store category. Heading that list was Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Osan Air Base, South Korea,

Three small stores received similar accolades. They were: Hohenfels, Germany; Izmir, Turkey; and Livorno, Italy. Winners were Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., and Cairo, Egypt

Students and leadership

Seventy-five high school students will represent the Department of Defense De-pendents Schools-Europe this week in an experimental learning program that focuses on developing leadership skills.

DODDS students from 25 schools in Europe and the Middle East will take part, coming from as far away as Iceland and Bahrain. The students will live, work and learn with a similar number of teens from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germanv. Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Hunga-Estonia and the Czech Republic. Known as the International Student

Leadership Institute, the annual pro-gram seeks to foster leadership skills, such as negotiation, advocacy and coali-tion building. The skills are "taught" by students elected last year to the board of regents. Three DODDS seniors are on this year's board.

The event is taking place in Germany, but DODDS asked the exact location not be disclosed for force protection reasons.

VMI cadets punished

LEXINGTON, Va. - Twelve cadets at the Virginia Military Institute have been punished for dressing up as Nazis and drag queens and wearing other costumes deemed inappropriate at a Halloween party in the barracks.

The punishments included confinement to quarters and the writing of essays on the incident.

Photographs of the costumed cadets were posted on the Internet.

The pictures showed three men dressed as saluting Nazis; two men in underpants, tiaras and eye shadow, with tank tops that read, "I (heart) a man in uniform"; a man in a loincloth and make up; and a man with a bull's-eve on the seat of his pants.

The college announced the penalties Thursday.

From staff and wire reports

These explosions would presumably sim-

Air Force scrapping Cold War-era radar

Cold War relics

detect Soviet bombers were opera-tional only a short time before being

mothballed for more advanced tech

partment is taking down the mon

egon - so the land can be sold

liths - one in Maine, the other in Or-

Modern dinosaur: Some military experts say the radars should stay

nuclear proliferation re-

- The Associated Press

Scrap pile: Now, the defense de-

Cold War blip: Radar developed to

BY RYAN LENZ The Associated Press

MOSCOW. Maine - It's a dinosaur of the Cold War: a three-mile-long radar system spread across hundreds of rural acres and designed to detect Soviet bombers screaming across the Atlantic

When operational, it could monitor a massive swath of ocean and warn of a threat 1.700 miles away — leaving plenty of time to scramble U.S. military jets in re-

But like warhead silos and other relics of the post-World War II arms race, the military is scrapping the wire-and-steel monolith and offering the expanse of land to private industry.

changed," said Steve Hinds, manager of the OTH-B radar pro-gram at Air Combat Command, which over-

sees U.S. fighter and bomber wings. "This will not be used for what it was intended. Ever

because

mains a threat.

The backscatter radar in Maine, and a similar system reaching out into the Pacific from Oregon, could bounce a beam off the ionosphere, which sent a scattered detection signal back to the Earth's surface.

note changes in ocean currents.

The radar in Maine nestled in the roods in a place that bears little resemblance to the Russian capital for which the nearby town was named, cost \$1.5 billion to develop. It was operational for a mere year in the early 1990s, before being moth-balled in favor of more advanced Navy The Air Force main-

tained the ability to restart the radars until late last year, when dis-mantling of both got under way. David Winkler,

historian with Naval Service Muse um, studied the ra-dars for a report to the Defense Department in the late 1990s on the legacy of the Cold War.

"They are out there to deter anybody who has a bad day and decides to launch against us." Winkler

against us," Winkler said. "But who are we deterring now, al-Qaida?" While many al-Qaida?" While many Cold War military installations have closed in the last decade, not evervone shares the assessment that the radar systems are useless.

John Pike, a military expert with globalsecurity.org, said he's puzzled by the de-



This section of the over-the-horizon radar in Moscow, Maine, is part of a system the Air Force has begun to disassemble. The system, which has been dormant for more than a decade, was operational for only a year in the early 1990s.

cision to dismantle the backscatter radar at a time when nuclear proliferation re-mains a concern and countries such as Iran and North Korea are developing longrange nuclear warheads.

Military officials counter that they're not abandoning defense, just old technology. New radar systems, including a relocatable version of the backscatter radar, have replaced the massive structure.

USS America to get explosive farewell

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Navy plans to send the retired carrier USS America to the bottom of the Atlantic in explosive tests this spring, an end that is difficult to swallow for some who served on board. The Navy says the effort, which will cost

\$22 million, will provide valuable data for the next generation of aircraft carriers, which are now in development. No warship this size or larger has ever been sunk, so there is a dearth of hard information on how well a supercarrier can survive battle damage, said Pat Dolan, a spokeswoman for Naval Sea Systems Command.

The Navy's plan raises mixed emotions in Ed Pelletier, who served on the America as a helicopter crewman when the ship cruised the Mediterranean shortly after its commissioning in 1965.

He said he was "unhappy that a ship with that name is going to meet that fate, but happy she'll be going down still serving the country." Pelletier, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is a trustee of an association of veter-

ans who served on the America. Since its decommissioning in 1996, the America has been moored with dozens of other inactive warships at a Navy yard in Philadelphia. The Navy's plan is to tow it to sea on April 11 — possibly stopping at Nor-folk, Va. — before heading to the deep ocean 300 miles off the Atlantic coast for the tests, Dolan said.

There, in experiments that will last from four to six weeks, the Navy will batter the America with explosives, both underwater and above the surface, watching from afar and through monitoring devices placed on



Next month, the Navy plans to send the retired supercarrier USS America to the bottom of the Atlantic after battering it with explosives. The America will become the largest warship ever sunk, a fact that's tough to swallow for veterans who served on board since its commissioning in 1965.

ulate attacks by torpedoes, cruise missiles and perhaps a small boat suicide attack like the one that damaged the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. At the end, explosive scuttling charges

placed to flood the ship will be detonated, and the America will begin its descent to the sea floor, more than 6,000 feet below. The Navy has already removed some ma

terials from the ship that could cause environmental damage after it sinks. Dolan

Certain aspects of the tests are classified and neither America's former crew nor the news media will be allowed to view them in person, Dolan said. The Navy does not want to give away too much information on how a carrier could be sunk, she said.

Why the America? No other retired supercarriers were available on the East Coast when the test was planned, Dolan said. The others - the Forrestal and the Saratoga — were designated as potential mu-seums, she said.

The America was the third carrier of the non-nuclear Kitty Hawk class, and the first to be retired, a victim of post-Cold War budget cuts after 31 years at sea. It launched warplanes during the Vietnam War, the 1986 conflict with Libya, the first Gulf War, and over Bosnia-Herzegovina in the

Hostage home after incident with U.S. troops

Military launches 'aggressive' investigation into shooting of Italian released in Iraq

BY PATRICK QUINN The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - The U.S. military said it launched an "aggressive" investigation into the shooting at an American checkpoint that killed an Italian intelligence agent who died in the arms of an Italian journalist that had just been freed after a month as a hostage of Iraqi insurgents

Giuliana Sgrena, 56, injured in the shooting near Baghdad airport, flew home to freedom Saturday, looking haggard and worn, after spending the night in a U.S. military hospital. She expressed sadness for the intelligence agent killed trying to shield her from the bullets.

President Bush expressed regret and promised to investigate the incident. The military said U.S. soldiers, not knowing the car was carrying Sgrena, fired after it failed to slow down

But Bush's phone call late Friday to Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi did little to assuage anger in Italy, which has been holding its breath over Sgrena's fate for weeks. The shooting was likely to set off fresh protests against Berlusconi for keeping 3,000 troops in Iraq despite strong

Another victim of an absurd war," said Alfonso Pecoraro Scanio, leader of the Green Party. A communist senator called for a protest Saturday in front of the U.S. Consulate

Sgrena left Iraq after she was discharged from an American military hospital in Baghdad where she had been treated for shrappel in the shoulder. Berlusconi was

among those who greeted her in Rome, where she had to be helped off a small, private jet. She was placed in an ambulance and was expected to un-

dergo surgery on her collarbone. Sgrena told colleagues at the leftist newspaper II Mani-festo that her captors never treated her badly, the Italian

news agency ANSA reported. Her brother, Ivan Sgrena, told reporters she was very

happy to be back in Italy, but was "very sorry and sad" about the death of intelligence officer Nicola Calipari, who had negotiated her release.

"She's been tested, but she's alive. Finally, we've gotten to see her," said the journalist's father, Franco Sgrena

Her arrival in Rome came as the Iraqi Shiite spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani called on bickering politicians in the clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance to set aside differences and form a government more than a

month after landmark elections Leaders of the alliance met in central Baghdad to discuss a way out of Iraq's growing political impasse

Alliance members meeting in central Baghdad agreed to try form a government and convene the 275-member National Assembly by March 15. Iraqis voted for the assembly on Jan. 30 and the alliance has already missed two previous target dates — March 1 and 6.

Ibrahim Mohamed Ali Bahar al-Olom, an alliance deputy, said they agreed the National Assembly would convene "no later than March 15."

Another deputy, Fattah al-Sheik said pressure would be put on interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi "and the Kurds" so that a cabinet would be ready by that date. Allawi's party finished third with 40 seats in the assembly, compared to the alliance's 140 and the Kurdish coalition's 75. He has been trying to build his own coalition in

an effort to keep his job.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, March 4, 2005, at least 1.507 members of the U.S.

military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,142 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civil-

The AP count is twelve higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,369 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,033 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the mili-

One soldier was killed Friday in a vehicle accident near Tikrit, Iraq.

Four soldiers were killed Friday in Anbar province, Iraq

The latest identifications reported by the military or family: Army Spc. Seth Garceau, 22, Oelwein Iowa; died Friday from injuries received

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates

the National Guard's 224th Engineer Battalion, Burlington, Iowa Army Spc. Azhar Ali, 27, and Army Spc. Wai P. Lwin, 27, of New York; killed Wednesday in Baghdad when an explo-

in an explosion Sunday while traveling be-

tween Karbala and Ramadi: assigned to

sive detonated near their vehicle; as-signed to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York.





vinDIESEL thePACIFIER

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TPEATERS

Former soldiers back in uniform for Iraq

Individual Ready Reserve members talk about being back in the military

Stare and Strings TIKRIT. Iraq - You're in the

Make that "again.

"The old uniform fit a little tight," Sgt. Brian Walker said. "Luckily, they issued me four

Walker is one of 5,600 people, many of whom hadn't worn a military uniform in years, taken from civilian life and activated under Individual

Ready Reserve program.

the Pentagon announced it was calling up the civilians because there were not enough reservists, guardsmen tive-duty troops to

fill certain duty slots, mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Walker, an immigration officer from Swanton, Vt., left the Army in 1998 but signed up for the IRR program in exchange for a \$5,900

per year. Now it's payback time. "It's kind of ironic," said Walk-er. "Me and my wife waited 10 years to have children in case of a deployment." They now have a 5-year-old daughter.

In justifying the call-up, Gen. Richard A. Cody, the Army's vice chief of staff, told Congress last summer it was the "worst-case" deployment plans after the rise in violence in Iraq.

David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, was quoted by Stars and Stripes last year as saying the IRR "is part of the obligation that each entrant in the military assumes. The fact that it is rare that we call up the Individual Ready Reservist does not, of course, mean that it is inappropriate."

Some IRR members were activated for the 1990-91 Persian Gulf War, Chu said.

Walker, a member of the 376th Personnel Services Battalion, said he chose to join the ready reserves for the money after he left active duty.

Others, such as Spc. Steven Sena, of Albuquerque, N.M., were called up as part of an eight-year obligation he incurred for enlisting in the military. Sena served for two years, which automatical-ly made him eligible for activation over the next six years.
"I'm still not happy I got called

back, especially when they don't need us," said Sena of the 326th Postal Platoon. "They could have called up other people in our

place who wanted to go."

Shonda Humphrey, who left
the Army in May 2001, was also called back for a tour in Iraq.

Humphrey, a single mother with children ages 6, 4 and 3, be-came Spc. Humphrey, assigned to the 326th, after receiving her alert notice last August. She has chosen to look at the bright side of her one-year call to duty

"Since I'm here I might as well learn postal operations, since

they reclassified me as postal," said Humphrey, a payroll administrator from Montgomery, Ala., whose obligation to the Army would have expired in May. "Maybe I'll go home and get a

good postal job. Humphrey's three children are being cared for by her fiancé, who is not the children's father,

and her sister.
"I try not to talk to [the children] every day because they get sad," Humphrey said. "But as far

44 Since I'm here I might as well learn postal operations, since they reclassified me as postal. Maybe I'll

Shonda Humphrey

as my fiancé and sister, I talk to them just about every day.' Master Sgt. Lisa Turner, the 326th's platoon sergeant, was also

thrown when she got her call-up "At first it was a shock to re-ceive my orders." Turner said.

"Then Sena and I went through training at Camp McGrady [S.C.]. For me, it was pretty motivating." Turner said she was getting an

increase in her pension because of the call-up. Turner, an administrative assis-

tant at the University of Maine at Farmington, says she gets lots of

"As liberal as they are, and as much as they hate the war, they're still supportive of me; they send their letters and e-mails," said Turner, a mother of

five daughters (two of whom are married) and granddaughter of two. Her husband, Louis, now has to hold down the household fort. As postal specialists in Iraq, the

soldiers have several duties. They break down pallets of incoming mail for troops in Iraq and push it

to outlying bases help customers at base post offices, and prepare outgoing mail for the Sena, an estima-

go home and get a good postal job. ?? tor for a paint contracting company, suffers from 376th Personnel Services Battalion the same heartache as the deployed reservists, guardsmen and

active-duty troops in Iraq who are used to wearing a uniform on a regular basis. His son, Isaiah, recently turned

 Isaiah was just 5 months old when his father left for the seven-month retraining program that ready reservists must undergo, making his actual time away from home 19 months

"It's just difficult because you wonder if he's going to know you're his dad when you return,'

E-mail Charlie Coon at:



From left, Spc. Antoinette Jackson, Spc. Shonda Humphrey and Spc. Steven Sena and Master Sgt. Lisa Turner, Army reservists with the 326th Postal Platoon, wait for a helicopter transport at Forward Operating Base Speciher in Tikrit, Iraq. Turner, Humphrey and Sena were activated for duty under the Individual Ready Reserve program, under which former active-duty soldiers can be called back for service.





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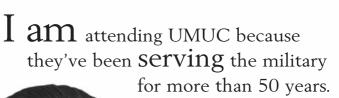
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Documents: Gls recorded prison abuse in Iraq

Investigation finds footage to be 'inappropriate,' but not criminal

BY RICHARD A. SERRANO Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - In a twist on the offensive photography that inflamed the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, a separate group of U.S. soldiers in Iraq shot a video of themselves beat ing prisoners and using the body of a dead Iraqi to "wave hello," according to documents released Friday

The digital video disc, which soldiers derisively titled "Rama-di Madness," a reference to a turbulent city in Iraq's Sunni Triangle, prompted an internal Army investigation of the Florida National Guard troops from West Palm Beach who were in volved. The video was brought

to the atten-The video was supervisors by a civilian public affairs brought to the employee in Florida who attention of Army expressed dis supervisors by a after viewing the scenes of solcivilian public diers reveling affairs emplouee among beaten in Florida who and dead Iraqi combatants. expressed disaust The internal

after viewing it.

investigation determined that the foot-

"contained inappropriate rather than criminal behavior. according to military records. Investigators later determined that the DVD was destroyed by an officer who learned of the internal investigation. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, no criminal charges were ever filed.

The investigation was among thousands of new pages of military documents the ACLU obtained in a lawsuit seeking information on detention practices. The Army turned over the information to the ACLU, also releas ing the documents Friday to reporters at the Pentagon. The ACLU issued descriptions of the

The ACLU said the descriptions of the video and other new Army documents raise fresh concerns about whether the military is seriously concerned with prisoner abuse, nearly a year after the first revelations that prison guards and interrogators mistreated detainees at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib compound near Baghdad.

"Pieces of the puzzle are still missing," said ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero,

gon's top civilian officials have been implicated or punished "An outside special counsel is the only way to ensure that all ci-vilians who violated, or conspired to violate, the laws are held responsible for their

The Pentagon has resisted an outside review but said Friday that it would deal with deficien cies in its prison facilities.

The Army remains commit to addressing identified problems in detainee opera-tions," Army officials said in a prepared statement.

According to the files, the DVD was a recording of Florida National Guard activities in Iraq between 2003 and 2004. The sol diers

identified as being from B Company, 1st 124th Infantry Regiment. The scenes included shots

soldiers kicking a prisoner wearing plastic hand cuffs who was on the ground and moaning after apparent ly being shot in the abdo-

men. He had been shot after allegedly wielding a gun against American soldiers during a

raid, the Army documents said. According to the ACLU, the prisoner later died.

In another videotaped scene a soldier appeared to be hitting a bound prisoner in the head with a rifle butt as interrogators were attempting to question him. The prisoner was apparently detained for throwing rocks at a U.S. military convoy, according to the descriptions.

One soldier told interrogators that the rifle-butting was actual-ly only a staged event and that the prisoner was never struck

A third scene showed a sol dier trying to wave the hand of a dead Iraqi at the camera after the Iraqi had been shot to death in a truck at a U.S. checkpoint The soldier told investigators he was only repositioning the body because there was concern over a possible missile inside the

scene reportedly showed soldiers yelling profani-ties at Iraqi civilians as the soldiers were on what was described as a joy ride in a van nor-mally used for carrying prison-

Soldier's defense opposing use of diary in murder trial

BY ESTES THOMPSON The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - Lawyers for Sgt. Hasan Akbar, charged in a fatal grenade attack on two officers in Kuwait, urged a military judge Friday to keep diary entries written six years before he enlisted in the Army out of his murder trial

The request came during a motions hearing in the case, as prosecutors argued the 27 diary entries show "intent, plan, motive" for the March 2003 attack at Camp Pennsylvania, days after the start of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The military judge overseeing the case, Col. Stephen Henley, expressed skepticism.

"Statements from 1992?" he asked prosecutor Capt. John Ben-

"I think it's highly relevant to how this case is shaping up," Benson replied.

Akbar, 33, is accused of stealing grenades from a Humvee and using them and a firearm in an attack on fellow members of the 101st Airborne Division. Capt. Christopher Seifert, 27, and Air Force Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, were killed: 14 other soldiers were injured.

If convicted of two counts of premeditated murder and three counts of attempted premeditated murder, Akbar could get the death penalty.

Maj. David Coombs, a defense lawyer, said his client's diary entries have no relationship to the military or the attack.

Although the entries were not read in court. Coombs argued it was clear in the 1992 entry that what Akbar was "talking about is getting



entry refers to frustration over Akbar's inability to get a date with a certain woman, he said; a third

apparently was written after

brother joined the military. Coombs said the prosecution was taking statements out of context to make it appear Akbar planned the attack for years before he joined the Army

Henley said he would rule later on a defense motion to block the statements

Although Akbar has been diag-

nodded off during past court ses sions, he did not appear to have trouble staying awake during Friday's two-hour hearing.

Akbar told the judge that his Denver-based civilian lawver. Wazir Ali Muhammad Al-Haqq, planned to withdraw from the case because he has not been paid. Akbar told the judge his mother might be able to help with payments, although he added that he does not mind being represent-

ed by his military lawyers. And defense lawyer Maj. Dan Brookhart urged Henley to bar prosecutors from showing jurors gruesome autopsy photos, saying they would prejudice the panel against Akbar.

Akbar has confessed several times to the attack and his lawyers plan to use an insanity or diminished capacity defense in his trial, so the defense does not intend to contest how Seifert and Stone died, Brookhart said.

He objected to showing jurors a photo of organs removed from a victim and another showing a victim laid in a body bag with bloody boots and medical equipment

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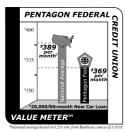
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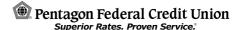
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3rd ID back for round two in Baghdad

GIs who first captured capital find a different enemy

By CHRIS TOMLINSON The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Their enemy has changed, from Iraqi soldiers in uniform to insurgents in civilian clothes. But for the soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division returning to Baghdad, some things remain the same.

The smell for instance - a mivture of smog, rotting garbage and sewage

"It's only here, it's only in Iraq, said Staff Sgt. Jason Barr of Roswell, Mich.

Nearly two years after they first entered Baghdad, the Fort Stewart. Ga.-based 3rd Infantry is back in Iraq, taking charge of the Baghdad metropolitan area While some of the soldiers are here for the first time most were nart of the invasion and canture of Baghdad in April 2003.

Sgt. Joshua Butler of Jackson. Mo., is a team leader in A Co. 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment. His company, code-named Attack, was among the first to roll into Baghdad and spent four months in Iraq in 2003. Bivouacked, in an old barracks in

south Baghdad, he said he feels as though he never left

The last time I was here, my guard was up 24/7 and I went back home and everything re-laxed and it was fine," Butler said. 'Now we're back and that feeling is there again all of a sudden."

Butler's life, like that of many of the returning soldiers, has changed since the invasion. He has been promoted from private first class to sergeant. He has married, has a child and owns a

"I'm responsible now for bringing home my guys alive to their family," he said.

The quick redeployment to Iraq takes a toll on families.

"Just as you begin to get relaxed and get back into a normal rhythm with your family, it starts all over again, the pressure of getting ready to leave again," said Barr, a father of two

"The few months before you leave are hard; the first few months after you get back are

The soldiers say what they fear most this time around are roadside bombs

Patrolling southern Baghdad will be more dangerous this time around, said Spc. Jacob Pfister of Buffalo, N.Y., because the insurgents fight from the shadows.

"In a direct firefight, we've got them hands down. But what you have to worry about is what you don't see, driving up and a guy has got a bomb on the side of the road," Pfister said.

The one thing all the soldiers agree on is that the living conditions are much better now. Instead of sleeping on sidewalks, they live two to a room in a barracks with running water and electricity. They eat hot meals in a mess hall run by KBR, a U.S. contractor, instead of prepackaged

But while life is more comfortable inside the garrison walls, with a television in almost every room, outside a war is still raging.

The last time the 3rd Infantry was in Baghdad, it entered with overwhelming force, fighting sustained urban combat from April 7-11, 2003. Their square patch with diagonal strines became as "the Death Patch" among Iraqis.



Young Iraqi students glance back at U.S. soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division as they conduct foot patrol at Falluiah in June 2003. Nearly two years after they first entered Baghdad, the 3rd Infantry is back in Iraq, taking charge of the Baghdad metropolitan area.

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Capt. Ike Sallee, the 30-year commander of Attack company, served as a staff officer during the invasion and he said the mission in Iraq now is much more compli-

"Iraq doesn't look different on

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the surface," said Sallee of Kissim-mee, Fla. But "the threat is more dangerous now because of the unpredictability of the enemy."

He said the division will try to

strike a balance — to make the in surgents fear his men, and instill

Guardsman to get court-martial in slaying of Iraqi police officer

Corporal also accused of shooting himself in November 2003

The Associated Press

FORT KNOX, Ky. - An Indiana National Guard soldier accused of murdering an Iraqi police officer will be court-martialed, the Army announced Friday

Cpl. Dustin Berg, 21, is accused of killing Hussein Kamel Hadi Dawood Al-Dubeidi south of Baghdad in November 2003, then shooting himself. Berg, of Ferdinand, Ind., received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in the incident.

An investigator testified during an Article 32 hearing last month that Berg changed his story multiple times before admitting he killed the po lice officer. Special agent Clarence Joubert of the Army Criminal Investigative Division said Berg initially said he was shot by a man in a red turban and white shirt.

Berg's attorney said at the hearing, which is similar to a civilian grand jury hearing, that his client acted in self-defense.

Maj. Gen. Terry Tucker, the commanding general at Fort Knox, determined that sufficient evi-dence exists for the case to move forward, public affairs officer Connie Shaffery said. A date for the court-martial has not been set

Berg is charged with murder, false swearing and the wearing of an unauthorized award.

Berg received a Purple Heart during a ceremony in February 2004, the month he returned home from Iraq. The Indiana National Guard has declined to release the citation describing why the Purple Heart was awarded to Berg.

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Insurgents are still an obstacle to reconstruction effort in Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The rebuilding of Iraq has gained fresh momentum in recent weeks, but violence by insurgents remains a threat to the work in the months ahead, the Pentagon official overseeing most of the reconstruction said Friday

"While I'm encouraged, I certainly don't think the worst is 'said Charles Hess, director over. of the Iraq Project and Contracting Office in Baghdad, which is responsible for \$13.7 billion of the

\$18.4 billion that Congress annroved in November 2003 for rebuilding the country.

"My suspicion is that the insurgents will regroup and try to figure out other ways to get at the heart of the infrastructure," Hess said in a video-teleconference with reporters at the Pentagon.

"But for right now I think progress can be made," especially in the less volatile areas.

Part of the additional work has been in Fallujah, the city west of Baghdad where U.S. forces cleared out insurgent strongholds

in November, allowing a resumption of reconstruction projects that had been suspended for months due to the violence

Hess said that about \$3.6 billion of the \$18.4 billion has been

That is more than double the \$1.7 billion in expenditures he reported four months ago. The num-ber of projects reported to be underway has grown during that four-month span from 873 to

Nationally, power plants as of Thursday were generating 3,850 megawatts of electricity a day, Hess said





IN THE WORLD

Syria expected to pull Lebanon troops back

BY BASSEM MROUE The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria - Thousands of Syrians supporting their leader and denouncing the United States and Israel packed a square outside parliament Saturday to hear President Bashar Assad's expected announcement to pull back his troops in Lebanon

closer to the Syrian border. Assad's announcement, expected to be made during a rare speech to the 250-member chamber, is seen as a bid to ease incessant Arab and U.S.-led international pressure regarding the presence of 15,000 Syrian troops in

Lebanon and the risk of isolation But even before Assad outlined his position. President Bush rejected anything but a full with-

drawal as unacceptable. The crowd of about 3,000 gathered outside the parliament to cheer the president as he arrived.

The protesters chanted, "One, one, one, Syria and Lebanon are one" and "Bush, Bush, listen, the Syrian people will not bow.

In the Lebanese capital of Beirut, several hundred Lebanese flag-waving protesters gathered at the central Martyrs' Square, keeping up the daily anti-Syrian campaign that has drawn tens of thousands since the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Many Lebanese blame Syria and the Lebanese government in the killing, but both deny involvement.

About 2.5 miles away, more than 50 Lebanese troops deployed near the Syrian intelligence headquarters in Beirut in what officers said was a precautionary action to provide security and prevent any acts of intimidation against the Syrians

The night before, a concussion bomb was tossed from a moving car at a Syrian military post in Baalbek, eastern Lebanon, exploding but causing no casualties, security officials said.

Assad's unscheduled address comes after a rough week, beginning with the resignation of his allied government in Lebanon and ending with the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah telling him face-to-face to get all his forces

out of Lebanon quickly. Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Walid Mouallem believes Assad will announce a pullback of his country's troops in his speech, his first to the parliament in two years.

In Moscow, Mouallem told Russian Foreign Minister Sergev Lavrov that Syrian and Lebanese leaders have agreed on an action plan for carrying out the 1989-Arab brokered Taif Accord. But he would not say when.

The accord calls for Syria to move its troops in Lebanon to the border, then for both countries to negotiate their withdrawal.

GO BEYOND

Lawmaker: Svria nuke comment was a joke

The Associated Press

DALLAS - A Dallas-area congressman raised eyebrows with his recent offer to personally drop a couple of nuclear

bombs on Syria.

But Rep. Sam Johnson, RTexas, told The Dallas Morning News for a story in Fri-day's editions that he was "kind of joking" in his com-ments at a pancake breakfast at a North Texas church.

The Feb. 19 remarks at the Suncreek United Methodist Church in Allen were first reported this week in Roll Call. The Capitol Hill newspaper reported it had heard a recording of the talk made by an unidentified person in attendance

According to Roll Call Johnson said he told the president: "Syria is the problem. Syria is where those weapons of mass destruction are, in my view. You know, I can fly an F-15, put two nukes on 'em and I'll make one pass. We won't have to worry about

Syria anymore."

Johnson, 74, is a former Air Force pilot who served in the wars in Korea and Vietnam, where he was shot down and spent 7½ years as a prisoner of war.

He told The Dallas Morning News that he was surprised that anyone took his comments seriously and has never advocated a nuclear strike at Syria.

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Hospitalized pope to give silent blessing

VATICAN CITY - Pone John Paul II met with a top cardinal and sent messages to students and Italy's premier Saturday, reinforcing the Vatican's portrayal of a pone who is alert and attending to church business even as he recovers from his latest health cri-

The Vatican said the frail 84-year-old pontiff again would give a silent blessing on Sunday from a window of Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, where he is getting breathing and speech therapy after throat surgery to ease his second respiratory crisis in a month.

"John Paul II will join the Angelus prayer from his hospital room, and at the end he will bless the faithful present at Gemelli Polyclinic the same way as last Sunday." papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in a statement.

John Paul made a surprise window appearance at the hospital a week ago, waving and giving the sign of the cross to cheering pilgrims gathered beneath his 10th-floor suite.

Navarro-Valls said Archbishop Leonardo Sandri - an Argentine from the Holy See's secretary of state office who has become the pope's official voice for the public

- would read out the traditional weekly prayer known as the Angelus and deliver a blessing to believers gathered at St. Peter's Square

When he is well, the pope addresses the faithful from a winlooking the

and

he'll



pital, a new Pope John Paul II

image of the papacy been emerging since his latest health crisis emphasizing the nower of his presence over that of the spoken word.

On Saturday, the Holy See reinforced the idea of the pope staying abreast of world affairs despite his illness. It said he sent messages of condolence to Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi and the family of Nicola Calipari, an intelligence agent killed by U.S. fire in Iraq while escorting freed Italian hostage Giuliana Sgrena to safety.

Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the pope's vicar for Rome and the influential president of the Italian Bishops Conference, told reporters outside the hospital that he saw the pope Saturday and "found him well, serene."

"I can say to all that the news, as always, is positive," Ruini said. He said his visit with John Paul preceded a meeting next week of

a bishops council - yet another suggestion from the Vatican that the pope was still involved in pressing church business

The Vatican has said it is possible the pope could be released in time for Easter on March 27, but that his level of participation in a

begins on March 20 with Palm Sunday would still have to be worked out

The pope's overall health and recovery are complicated by Parkinson's disease, which causes

gradual loss of muscle control. He also suffers from crippling hin and knee ailments



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Poles remember thousands killed by Soviets

BY ELA KASPRZYCKA

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland - Poles gathered in Warsaw on Saturday on the 65th anniversary of the Soviet order that led to a massacre of 21,000 Polish officers and intellectuals by the secret police, calling on Russian authorities to reveal more names of those responsible for the killings

At a Mass in Warsaw's St. Ann's Church, the Katyn Committee, an organization of relatives of those killed in the Katvn forest and at other sites, demanded more Russian attention to the massacre. A recent Russian investigation failed to produce any new names of suspects.

"We are calling on the authorities of the Russian Federation to reveal the names of those who were responsible for the geno cide in the spring of 1940," said Stefan Melak, the head of the group.

"We are calling on Russian authorities to accept this crime as genocide.

"Katyn will always remain a symbol of a death sentence passed on Poland," he said.

The March 5, 1940, order for the massacre was signed by Soviet leader Josef Stalin among others. Soviet agents shot 21,768 Polish military officers, intellectuals and priests who were taken prisoner when the



Teresa Rogowska places vellow tulips at the monument Saturday in Warsaw, Poland. commemorating the death of Polish army officers murdered by Soviets near the Katyn forest, in Russia, during World War II. Saturday is the 65th anniversary of the event.

Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939

Historians in Poland believe Stalin ordered the killings to liquidate Poland's elite in order to prevent the rebirth of a sovereign Polish state

The massacre is still an irritant to rela tions between Poland and Russia Polish war crimes prosecutors opened their own

After the mass, participants placed flowers and sang patriotic anthems at a nearby Katyn monument, built in 1998 to commemorate the victims.

Krystyna Balcer, a 62-year-old retiree whose uncle was murdered in Katvn, remained angry about the massacre and the Soviet invasion

"They betrayed us - they stuck a knife in our backs," she said of the Soviets invad-ing Poland from the east, 17 days after Ger-mans entered from the West. The massacre "was unimaginable cruelty, it was geno-

Until the fall of communism in 1989, any mention of the massacre was forbidden in Poland. The following year, the Soviet government accepted responsibility for the World War II murders, but refused to refer to it as a genocide attempt, calling it a war crime on which the statute of limitations has passed.

The slaughter became known to the world when 4,100 bodies were discovered by German forces in 1943 after they overran the area near Smolensk, in western Russia, and the event was widely broadcast by the Nazi propaganda machine.







An employee of Tadiran Spectralink Ltd. displays a new model of wrist-monitor at a Tadiran plant in Cholon, Israel.

Wrist video puts intel at Israeli army's fingertips

The Associated Press

HOLON, Israel - Israeli troops now are sporting gear that Dick Tracy would be proud of: tiny video screens, worn on the wrist, which display video shot by unmanned airplanes.

Similar screens have been in use for close to a year in the Israeli military's attack helicopters, helping pilots identify and strike Pales tinian militants within seconds.

The technology, which also is in use in tanks and armored vehicles, was a closely guarded secret until the company that developed offered reporters a rare glimpse at the system this week.

fiction movies that we see," said Itzhak Beni, chief executive of the Elisra Group's Tadiran Electronic Systems and Tadiran Spectralink companies.

Reni said the communications system has "shortened tremendously" the amount of time it takes to identify and strike a target. Refore it was minutes 10 to 12

minutes. Now it's a matter of seconds," he said.

Israel agreed to halt its policy

of "targeted killings" under an informal cease-fire declared last month by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. But after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed five Israelis last week, Israel said it would consider resuming the practice. The Israeli army declined to

comment about the new technolo-

But Israeli security officials have acknowledged experiencing a greatly improved ability to carry out airstrikes to the point that targeted militants no longer have time to flee, in contrast to the early days of fighting in late



France struggles with 'the horror of horror'

Nation, town try to cope with massive pedophilia scandal

The Associated Press

ANGERS, France - The colorful playgrounds and prim plantings of this working class housing complex seem to have hidden a grim secret for years. Inside, prosecutors say, parents allegedly raped, abused and pimped their children - some not yet old enough to walk.

Well-maintained, modern and inviting, the three-story apart-ment buildings of the Saint-Leonard neighborhood in the western town of Angers were designed to make life in low-income housing civilized.

But some of the residents who moved in after it opened in 1998 are accused of terrible acts.

Sixty-six people have gone on trial this week for crimes of pedophilia that have stunned France The case, coming on the heels of another high-profile pedophilia trial in northern France last year,

prompted renewed soul-searching about how people could sink so low in a country that prides itself as an economic and political leader of Europe

Investigators say 45 children ages from 6 months to 14 years were abused by their parents or people close to them from 1999 to 2002, in some cases in exchange for small amounts of money, food,

cigarettes or alcohol. A grandfather of some of the children allegedly filmed rapes and other

The trial's second day Friday was devoted to presenting the more than 200 witnesses to the court

In Angers, known for its medieval castle and Cointreau liquor, some residents refuse to accept that such crimes could be perpetrated in their midst, Angers' Deputy Mayor Michelle Moreau

"I've heard people say to me, 'But you know, these children were used to it,' " she said. "It's the horror of horror."

The trial is expected to last four months. But getting over the horror could take far longer. French newspapers in recent

days have been full of questions by child psychologists and columnists asking how something so ghastly and so enormous could have gone undetected so long.

Part of the explanation was the tight-knit nature of the ring husbands forced wives and parents forced children, lawyers

'We're talking about family networks. There is a code of silence, a family law takes over," said Jacques Monier, a lawyer who represents 11 child victims. "And

cause what makes us human is walking upright," Latimer said.

us a picture of how walking up-

viewed by outside scientists or

at University College in London

said, however, that the new finds could be significant.

nartial skeleton because it allows

you to speculate on biomechan-

"It sounds like a significant

... particularly if they have a

published in a scientific journal.

right occurred.

"This new discovery will give

The findings have not been re-

Leslie Aillo, an anthropologist and head of the Graduate School the children do not talk.'

Defense attorney Monique Vimont described her client, one of the principal defendants, as "a woman worn out by life," who was beaten by her husband and pressured to commit crimes against children

Under French law, the defendants cannot be named, to protect the identities of their alleged child victims.

The case came to light in 2000 when a 16-year-old girl alleged she had been raped by her mother's boyfriend and his brother.

Alcoholism, poverty and, defense lawyers claim, a failure of social workers to spot signs of abuse may have played a role.

More than half of the accused, ages 27 to 73, were unemployed, living off benefits in state-support-



An unidentified suspect hides upon arrival at the courthouse in Angers. western France, on Friday. It was the second day of the trial of 66 people accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and prostitution of dozens of children and babies.

ed housing. Some of the accused were abused themselves as children, defense attorneys say.

"The person I'm defending sits in the box next to his father, who

is the perpetrator of sexual acts on him only years ago - and now is his accomplice," said Pascal Rouiller, an attorney who represents five defendants.

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ics," said Aillo, who was not part of the discovery team. Paleontologists previously dis-covered in Ethiopia the remains CALL GEICO STATESIDE.

of Ardipithecus ramidus, a transitional creature with significant ape characteristics dating back as many as 4.5 million years. There is some dispute over whether it walked upright on two legs, Latimer and Aillo said.

much about how our 4-mil-lion-year-old ancestors walked, how tall they were and what they looked like," said Yohannes looked like," said Yohannes Haile-Selassie, an Ethiopian scientist and curator at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History as well a co-leader of the discoverv team.

"This discovery will tell us



Ancient ancestor thought to be nearly 4 million years old

By Anthony Mitchell. The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia - A team of U.S. and Ethiopian scientists has discovered the fossilized remains of what they believe is humankind's first walking ancestor, a hominid that lived in the wooded grasslands of the Horn of Africa nearly 4 million years ago.

The bones were discovered in February at a new site called Mille, in the northeastern Afar region of Ethiopia, said Bruce Latimer, director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in the U.S. state of Ohio. They are estimated to be 3.8-4 million years old. The fossils include a complete tibia from the lower part of the

leg, parts of a thighbone, ribs, vertebrae, a collarbone, pelvis and a complete shoulder blade, or scapula. There is also an anklebone which, with the tibia, proves the creature walked upright, said Latimer, co-leader of the team that discovered the fossils The bones are the latest in a growing collection of early human

fragments that help explain the evolutionary history of man. "Right now we can say this is the world's oldest bipedal (an animal walking on two feet) and what makes this significant is be-

IN THE STATES

Bush takes Social Security plan on the road

BY DEB RIECHMANN The Associated Press

WESTFIELD, N.J. - President Bush kept pitching his Social Security overhaul Friday, undaunted by Democratic opposi-tion, frayed Republican support and less than enthusiastic backing from the public.

"I'm going to keep telling people we've got a problem until it sinks in, because we've got one Bush said, underscoring esti-mates that say Social Security will begin paying out more than it collects in taxes as early as 2018.

Bush's visits to New Jersey and South Bend, Ind., began a two-month blitz in which he and other administration officials are visiting 29 states. The road trip ended a week in which the admin istration lost momentum on the president's call to revamp the government's 70-year-old retirement

The stops Friday were specifically targeted for Reps. Mike Fer-

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President's speech cites progress for democracy

WASHINGTON - President Bush hailed recent moves toward democracy across the Middle East on Saturday while pressing his demand that Syria withdraw from Lebanon and prodding Palestinians to dismantle terrorist organizations.

'The world is now speaking with one voice to ensure that democracy and freedom are given a chance to flourish in Leba-

can congressmen who are taking heat on the issue Ferguson, who has not taken a position on the private accounts

Chocola of Indiana, two Republilaunched an "important national conversation." Chocola has said that recent town meetings in his district left him willing to follow Bush's lead, although he talked of the political problems surrounding the issue

non," Bush said in his weekly radio address

He used the address to survey the changing landscape in recent months across a region in which he says "freedom is on the march."

Bush cited successful elections in Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories and Iraq. He also cited peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations in Beirut, the Lebanon capital, "and steps toward democratic reform in Egypt and Saudi Arabia."



President Bush shares a laugh with Betty Batterbee, of Edwardsburg, Mich., as he talks about his plan to reform Social Security at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., on Friday.

To counter Bush's nationwide Democratic senators swing, planned their own "fix it, don't nix it" forums in four cities over two days

The Democratic National Committee was responding with radio advertisements in each market targeting Chocola and Ferguson, who have faced tough races in the past. The ads accuse Bush of wanting to "end Social Security's guaranteed benefits" and tie them to the "ups and downs of the stock market."

"Call Congressman Chocola and tell him to oppose President Bush's risky scheme," one ad

Bush rebuffed that criticism in his appearance at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend. People in the friendly audience had received tickets through Chocola's office, and the administration chose those allowed to ask questions - none of them seeking details of his proposal

People opposed to the plan demonstrated outside of both appearances. In Westfield, police said they arrested nine people, including five juveniles, on disorderly

conduct charges. One protester carried a sign that read, "If you want to gamble, Mr. President, go to Atlantic City.

Outside the Joyce Center on the Notre Dame campus, about 200 people demonstrated across the street with signs that read "You're plan's a joke, we'll all be broke" and "Social Security is a phony crisis

Although he stressed that younger workers need to embrace the private accounts, Bush told the Indiana audience: "If vou're relving upon Social Security today, nothing will change. I don't care what the ads say, what the politicians say, you're going to get your check

Bush envisions no change for retirees or workers age 55 and older. Under his plan, however, younger Americans could divert up to 4 percent of their income subject to Social Security taxes into personal accounts in exchange for a reduction in their guaranteed benefit.

Despite Bush's uphill battle on the issue, the White House says it's not changing its message.

Bush pardons bootlegger

WASHINGTON - President Bush pardoned eight people, including a man convicted of bootlegging 45 years ago, the Justice Department announced Friday.

The first round of clemency orders in Bush's second term brings his total since taking office to 39 pardons and sentence commutations.

father, President George H.W. Bush, issued 77 pardons during his single term from 1989 to 1993, according to statistics collected by the University of Pittsburgh law school.

President Clinton, by contrast, granted clemency to 456 people during his eight years in office, including 176 on his last day at the White House. One of those was the contentious pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich, former husband of Democratic Party donor Denise Rich.

Most presidents since the beginning of the 20th century have granted hundreds if not thousands of pardons and sentence commutations, led by Franklin D. Roosevelt's 3.687 over four Those pardoned by Bush in-

clude Charles Russell Cooper, of Corpus Christi, Texas, who was sentenced in May 1959 in South Carolina to three years probation for bootlegging, and Joseph Daniel Gavin. of East Elmhurst. N.Y., court-martialed by the Army in 1984 for failure to obey an order and other charges and given a bad conduct discharge.



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Beached dolphins die off Fla. coast

44 ... [T]hey

couldn't hold

themselves

up.77

The Associated Press

MARATHON, Fla. - Nineteen dolphins that became stranded off the Florida Keys have died, including 13 who were euthanized, officials said Friday.

More than 30 others will be moved to rehabilitation facilities

Saturday. euthanized after blood tests showed 13 of them were "not likely to recover at all and that they are suffering," said Laura Engleby, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries

Service. "Some were still not swimming on their own, and they couldn't hold themselves up," Denise Jackson of the Ma-

rine Mammal Rescue Team said More than 60 rough-tooth dolphins beached themselves Wednesday on flats and sandbars about a quarter mile off Mara-

Rescue teams moved the dol-

phins to a nearby canal where veterinarians have been conducting

The remaining 31 live dolphins were being given Pedialyte — a drink normally given to dehydrated human babies — and fresh water, Jackson said.

Teams planned to move them by Saturday morning to rehabilitation facilities along the Kevs or on the mainland, officials said.

mam-

Marine mals may become Denise Jackson stranded Marine Mammal they are sick, in-Rescue Team jured or disoriented, Engleby said.

Scientists performing necropsies will take genetic samples to determine whether the dolphins all came from the same population.

Rough-tooth dolphins normally inhabit deep waters in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean

Marathon, in the middle of the Florida Keys, is about 46 miles east of Key West.

Scientists on Thursday release one of the rough-tooth dolphins that became stranded off the Florida Keys. Nineteen of the dolphins have died, including 13 who were euthanized, officials said Friday.

Gene therapy on hold

WASHINGTON — Following a setback in gene therapy exper iments in France, U.S. he visers are recommending the treatment be given only to children who have no other alterna-

The Food and Drug Administration convened its advisory panel after a 3-year-old French boy became the third child to develop cancer following gene therapy for treatment of Xlinked severe combined immunodeficiency, or X-SCID. The FDA had asked U.S. researchers doing similar work to put it on hold

Doctors and scientists on the advisory panel said they didn't want to hold up the therapy for children who have already failed to respond to bone marrow transplants, an alternative treatment. But they noted that the number of such children who under Friday's recommendation would still be able to have experimental gene therapy - is very small

Ten children suffering with X-SCID were basically cured in the French study, at first greeted with great excitement as a breakthrough in gene therapv. said Dr. Warren Leonard. a panel member from the Na-tional Institutes of Health. But three later developed leukemia, and one of them died.

From The Associated Press

Budget office warns Congress of higher Medicare drug costs

BY ALAN FRAM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress' nonpartisan budget analyst added new fuel to the Medicare debate late Friday with new, higher cost estimates for a prescription drug program that has already drawn fire for its soaring price tag.

In a letter to lawmakers, the Congressional Budget Office said its estimate for the drug benefits for the 10-year period ending in 2015 had grown by \$54 billion since January. No cumulative 10-year total was provided, but a separate CBO letter used figures that indicated a total over that period of \$849 billion.

Significantly, though, that number omitted savings expected to accompany the new program. As a result, the new congressional estimate was not directly comparable to the \$724 billion projection the Bush administration released last month, which factored in those savings.

If those savings were subtracted, the \$849 billion figure would likely be lower than Bush's \$724 billion estimate, according to figures cited by the CBO.

Even so, the new numbers could further roil the politics surrounding the drug benefits, which don't even take effect until 2006. They were released days before Congress' Republican-run budget committees start writing fiscal plans that will include domestic spending cuts and call for savings from Medicaid and other benefit programs.

The price tag for the Republiedicare prescription drug bill just gets higher and higher," said Thomas Kahn. Democratic staff director of the House Budget Committee. "The underlying benefits for seniors never improve.

The drug benefit is a necessary improvement to Medicare, said White House budget office spokesman Noam Neusner.

Messages left for spokespeople for several congressional Republicans were not immediately returned

Ever since they were enacted in 2003 for a presumable \$400 billion 10-year price tag, the cost

has crept steadily upward.

Lawmakers of both parties have accused the White House of withholding information about the program's true costs to win conservatives' votes that were crucial congressional passage. charge the administration denied.

Two months after passage, the Bush administration raised the 10-year cost estimate to \$534 bil-

Since then, the projected cost has grown mostly because the original 10 years being measured included two years when the pro-gram was barely in effect. The current 10-year period begins in 2006 and covers a full decade of



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Thundering out of the gate

Talk of reform around the globe is positive start for Rice's term as top diplomat

Analysis

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Israel and the Palestinians are talking peace. Egypt is thinking about holding competitive elections. The Iraq vote was surprisingly smooth. Syria is talking about leaving Lebanon.

Not a bad six weeks for America's new diplomat-in-chief, Condoleezza Rice. Indeed, she may be off to the fastest start of any secre-

tary of state in memory. Colin Powell, recently seen on holi-

Colin Powell, recently seen on holiday in the Caribbean, perhaps wished he could have stayed on a little longer to bask in the spate of good news.

Powell left the State Department for the last time on Jan. 25, missing by five days the Iraqi election and by two weeks the Israeli-Palestinian truce.

He was never able to make much headway on the Middle East during his watch. He took office not long after the second Palestinian intiffad began in the region. He was gone just before it seems to have ended. He never had a meaningful opening to work with in the region.

Not surprisingly, Rice seems to be enjoying life in her State Department perch.

"It is a great job at a great time," she told PBS'
"NewsHour with Jim Lehrer." "This is a wonderful
time for those of us who care about the spread of
freedom and liberty, and it's a great time for the
Eurn-Atlantic alliance."

That may be an overstatement, but the Iraq war syndrome that plagued the alliance does seem to be fading. Somewhat improbably, the United States and France are joining hands in seeking a Lebanon free of Svrian troons.

Kurt Campbell, of the Center for Strategic and In-

ternational Studies, says Rice has benefited from a combination of skill and good fortune.

He also credits her with putting together a strong team. "one of the strongest teams in decades."

Powell's team was highly competent, he says, but there was always the sense that it was under siege and "maybe a little on the outs" with others in the administration.

Peter Brookes, of the Heritage Foundation, said he doesn't subscribe to the thesis that Powell didn't have much influence.

"The devil's advocate view is also important to the development of policy," he says, predicting that history will be kind to Powell.

"He was an architect of what we are seeing today," he said.

The recent positive trends, Brookes adds, are a vindication of President Bush's policies, of which, he notes, Rice certainly has been a part for some time.

Not so fast with the victory laps, says Michael O'Hanlon, of the Brookings Institution.

He acknowledges that Rice has had a few breaks but asks, "What problems have been solved? It's a little early to take things to the bank."

He believes the Middle East still offers more problems than opportunities for the United States.

Nobody should be gushing, O'Hanlon adds, over the announcement by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that he favors a constitutional change that would permit competitive elections.

"Is Egypt solved because Mubarak has figured out a way to make elections look competitive when they probably won't be?" O'Hanlon asks.

No one doubts, least of all Rice herself, the depth of the challenges that await her on North Korea and Iran, two issues on which there is nothing to cheer about vet.



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has witnessed successful Iraqi elections, promises of election reform in Egypt and a reform movement in Lebanon during the first six weeks in her new post.

Montana fire concerns spark Guard request

The Associated Press
HELENA. Mont. — Montana is

at such risk for a wildfire "blowup" this summer that Gov. Brian Schweitzer wants at least some of the state's 1,500 National Guard soldiers in Iraq and elsewhere to return for the wildfire season. The governor warned Friday

The governor warned Friday the state is like a powder keg because of persistent drought, a shortage of mountain snow and forests full of dry timber.

"I know it's going to be a bad

fire year," he said, adding he anticipates a repeat of the 1988 season when 4,122 fires charred 2.2 million acres in the Northern Rockies, including about 793,000 acres in Yellowstone National Park.

"Somebody's going to have a blowup," Schweitzer said in an interview. "Is it northern Idaho, is it eastern Washington or is it Montana?"

The governor has asked the Pentagon to return some of the Montana National Guard troops and aircraft called to active duty.

He also plans to ask leaders in Idaho, Washington, Saskatchewan and Alberta to commit manpower and machines to fight the anticipated wildfires.

Montana Guard spokesman



1

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, seen Friday in his Helena, Mont., office, and other officials are worried this fire season may be as bad as 1988, when Yellowstone National Park burned.

Maj. Scott Smith said about 2,000 soldiers, often called on to supplement fire crews each summer, remain in the state.

But 10 of the state's 12 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, each capable of carrying a 600-gallon water bucket or 11 firefighters, are not back from Iraq, he said.



Macabre trophies

BTK and other serial killers keep tokens of crimes

BY MATT SEDENSKY The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kansas Baton Rouge serial killer made off with a silver toe ring. Jeffrey Dahmer kept rotting body parts. And the serial killer known as BTK held on to jewelry, driver's licenses and photo-

graphs The things that serial killers take from their crime scenes are not meaningless mementos Those who study the cases say such trophies are important in understanding how BTK may have gone years without satisfy ing his hunger to murder.

suspect Rader, 59,



married with children, is charged 10 with slayings between 1974 and 1991 Many

contend the serial killer - who gave himself the nickname BTK, short for "Bind, Torture, Kill" - is responsible for even more murders

The timeline of the BTK killings has gaps as long as eight years and a 14-year reprieve be-tween the last linked death and

But experts agree that regard-less of the time between a serial killer's murders, his fantasies can be satisfied with a glimpse of his trophies.

"They can try to recreate that thrill of dominating and killing somebody," said Marilyn Bards-ley, a serial killer expert. Police haven't said if they've

confiscated anything from Rader's house that may have be-longed to a BTK victim. Over the years, though, BTK's mailings to authorities and the media have included tokens

from his victims' homes. From Nancy Fox, a 1977 victim, the killer lifted a driver's lie. At other crime scenes, he filched jewelry, some of which he later sent to a local television station. When Vicki Wegerle was killed in 1986, BTK snapped pictures of her body in various positions

"The way he was taunting police, he was reliving the killing from a long time ago," said Steven Egger, a criminologist at the University of Hous-ton-Clear Lake who wrote a book on serial murderers, "The Killers Among Us."

Still, Bardsley said the enjoyment trophies can bring is no re placement for actually killing again.

"That thrill wears off." she

Case tests Texas law protecting unborn

Teens' respective roles in ending pregnancy incites criticism of legislation

BY LISA FALKENBERG

The Associated Press

LUFKIN, Texas - The would-be teen mother arrived by ambulance last May, her belly bruised, the twin fetuses she carried for five months gone and her lips tightly sealed.

Authorities assumed 16-year-old Erica Basoria had been beaten, and charged her bovfriend, 18-year-old Gerardo "Jerry" Flores, with murder under a new Texas state law protecting the unborn

But Basoria told authorities she had been trying to kill the fetuses for weeks — and finally asked Flores to help by stepping on her

stomach. Now Flores faces murder charges — but Ba soria can't be charged because the new law, like many others across the United States hans prosecution of mothers on the grounds that they have a legal right to end pregnancies.

The case has attorneys on both sides questioning the fairness of the law

"How can two people conspire to do some-thing like this and only one of them be pun-ished? How can that be fair?" defense attorney Ryan Deaton asked.

Prosecutor Clyde Herrington said it was startling that "they completely leave the female out of the criminal penalty."

The couple had been dating just over a year when Basoria became pregnant in Jan 2004. Flores, a senior in his last year of high school who was pursuing a soccer scholar ship, said he offered to delay college a year until Basoria graduated.

The pregnancy changed everything. Both were scared. Neither had a job. And there were two babies Basoria didn't return calls for comment.

but wrote in an affidavit that her family en-couraged an abortion: "They said I was too young to have children."

Flores' mother, Norma, shunned the idea, saying: "It's a life that wants to live

At four months, when the mirror betrayed her first bulge. Basoria wanted out. "About two weeks before the miscarriage, I started hitting myself," Basoria wrote in an af-

fidavit. "I would do this every other day and I would use both of my fists when I did this. I would hit myself 10 or more times. Then she turned to her boyfriend. "I said I didn't want to do it." Flores re-

called. But she kept pleading, he said. The night of the miscarriage, the couple fought. Later, he awoke to Basoria's screams and found her crying and bleeding on the toilet. Flores' mother and sister went to the hospital and Flores stayed behind.

Flores since has been charged with capital murder, though prosecutors aren't seeking the death penalty. He remains in jail, awaiting a trial date.

Activists seek justice in 58-year-old Ga. lynching

BY ELIOTT C. MCLAUGHLIN The Associated Press

MONROE, Ga. — Where the old Moore's Ford bridge once stood, there are no reminders of the atrocities exacted here 58 years ago - other than a crude, black "KKK" spray-painted on the underside of a modern bridge nearby.

It was at this point along the Apalachee River that a mob of white men pulled four black sharecroppers from a car, dragged them down a wagon trail and repeatedly shot them with pistols and shotguns.

Nearly six decades later, the lynchings remain unsolved and most of the 55 suspects named in the FBI's investigation are dead, but that isn't deterring the efforts of the dozens of politicians, activists and victims' relatives that make up the Moore's Ford Memo rial Committee.

They want justice - regardless of how much time has passed

Bolstered by the recent wave of reopened civil rights murder cases across the South, the small activist group is asking a local prosecutor to use the FBI report to seek indictments against the surviving suspects.

The group also is organizing local events next month to call attention to the unsolved lynchings of Roger and Dorothy Malcom and George and Mae Murray Dorsey. The events will include a forum at the Walton County Courthouse and a 21/2-mile march to the new bridge.

District Attorney Ken Wynne says he won't reopen the case until new evidence is found.

85

"They've successfully prosecuted old, old homicide cases when new evidence develops." Wynne said, but he pointed out that four years ago the Georgia Bureau of Investigation "conducted a fresh investigation and wasn't able to unearth any evidence to bring charges."
In 2001, then-Gov. Roy Barnes

ordered the case reopened. The GBI says it considers the case open, but unsolved

longtime civil-rights leader from Atlanta, said there is enough evidence to seek indictments in the

"We don't need any more investigations. The evidence is there, said Brooks, an honorary memher of the memorial committee

"They should be charged and let a jury decide their fate.

Moore's Ford Lynching

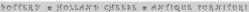
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TURKISH RUGS &

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Rosa Ingram, Roger Malcom's aunt, reads the Georgia Historical Society marker for the Moore's Ford bridge lynching outside Monroe, Ga.





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* PAINTINGS * CLOCKS * CLOTHING * TOYS *

Sonny Savoie, center, a member of the National School Board Association's **Board of Directors** from St. Charles Parish, bows his head in prayer Thursday before the opening session of the Louisiana School **Board Association** Convention in Alexandria, La.



La. politicians jump to oppose federal court's prayer ruling

BY DOUG SIMPSON

The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, La. — A federal court ruling that bans prayer at school board meetings provoked a flurry of political protest in Louisiana this week, with elected officials of both parties jumping to support the long tradition of starting board meetings with invocations to God.

The ruling, issued by a federal judge, blocked a school board north of New Orleans from beginning meetings with a prayer. The judge found the prayers—some referring to God's "darling son, our savior Jesus Christ"—breached the line between church and state.

Louisiana politicians criticized the judge. The governor, a congressman and other officials blasted the ruling and pledged support for an anticipated appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal. Gov. Kathleen Blanco, a Democrat, said she'd file a

University of Maryland University College Europe

"friend of the court" brief opposing the ruling, and Republican Congressman Bobby Jindal said he'd introduce a resolution in Congress next week, also supporting the prayer tradition.

"I just have to say that these prayers, where public officials ask for the Lord's guidance, are entirely appropriate," Blanco said in a speech to the Louisiana School Boards Association on Friday. "In my book, they're constitutional, and I'm going to ask the court to change the ruling."

The lawsuit was filed in the Tangipahoa Parish, which led to the ruling by U.S. District Judge Gin-

er Berrigan.

The lawsuit was filed anonymously by a parent

with backing by the American Civil Liberties Union.
The Louisiana School Boards Association held its annual convention this week, in this central Louisiana city, about 220 miles northwest of New Orleans.
Organizers made a point of kicking it off with a praver asking for guidance from God.



The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Police tightened security Saturday around a church where a federal judge's slain husband was to be memorialized, and the FBI offered a \$50,000 reward for help in finding anyone involved in the gunshot slaying.

U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and her children have been in protective custody since the judge discovered the bodies of her husband and mother in the basement of her home Monday.

FBI officials said Friday they don't have a suspect and asked the public's help in solving the crime. But FBI Agent Robert D. Grant said one avenue of investigation was white supremacist Matthew Hale and his followers.

Hale, 33, is facing sentencing next month for soliciting an FBI informant to kill Lefkow after she ruled against him in a trademark lawsuit. He has denied any in-



Al

U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow watches pallbearers carry her husband's casket into St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Saturday in Evanston, III.

volvement in the slayings, which he called "a heinous crime."

A friend of Hale's, Kathleen Robertazzo, told The New York Times and Chicago Tribune in Saturday's editions that authorities seized 100 letters Hale sent her from prison and made copies of her computer hard drive.

Robertazzo told the Times the idea that Hale would be involved "defies logic." In the letters, she said, Hale describes singing opera in jail, taking Prozac and being buoyed by the presence of a man with the same name as Adolf Hitler's boyhood friend.

U.S. doctors pushing organ swap program

BY LINDSEY TANNER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kidney transplant specialists pushed Thursday for a national organ swap program that they say could be lifesaving for thousands of ailing patients on transplant waiting lists.

The swap, already done at about 30 U.S. hospitals, would in-

RUNGERARY DELL

DE ANNAME ROPESTALISE

PERC TORU COMMINGA - Public Completes or thoraped state for the Administration State

volve patients who need transplants and have relatives or friends willing to donate but whose kidneys aren't a match. Each patient-donor pair would be matched with another pair to allow reciprocal transplants. "It's quite a gift," said Ron

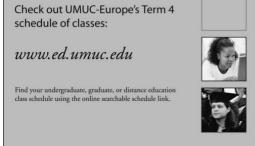
"It's quite a gift," said Ron Lazar, of North Canton, Ohio, who received a kidney transplant at the Cleveland Clinic in November after his doctors found a nearby Ohio couple in the same predica-

Lazar's wife, Kathy, had the wrong blood type but her kidney was a match for Debbie Pratt, who like Lazar, had life-threatening kidney disease. And Pratt's husband, Gary, turned out to be a match for Ron Lazar.

"I feel like it was good luck and a prayer that we came up with a match," Lazar, 57, said Thurs-

Creating a national "paired kidney exchange" would allow transplants for about half the 6,000 U.S. patients yearly who have willing donors with incompatible kidneys because of different blood types or other reasons, said Dr. Robert Montgomery, director of Johns Hopkins University's Comprehensive Transplant Center.

"The payoff is huge," said Montgomery, who organized a conference in Chicago where dozens of specialists gathered to develop a blueprint for a national paired organ exchange program.



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or visit your UMUC-Europe field representative.

Experts not surprised by primate attack

By KIM CURTIS AND TERENCE CHEA The Associated Press

HAVILAH, Calif. - Chimpanzees come across to the public as little darlings, often in diapers and always willing to hold

But they're really aggressors, primate experts say, more than capable of carrying out attacks as violent as one that left a man fighting for his life

Generally weighing between 120 and 150 pounds with strength much greater than man, chimps in the wild are known to kill chimps from neighboring groups, hunt

other primates and even attack humans. "Male chimps are intensely territorial They defend their territory against any per



nia who studies primate behavior "Chimps can be violent at times just as hu-mans can be." On Friday, authori-

ceived threat,"

Craig Stanford, a pro-

fessor at the Universi-

ties continued to investigate how two chimps at an animal sanctuary escaped from their cage and mauled St. James Davis, 62 escaped from

They were shot to death during Thursday's attack by the son-in-law of the sanctuary's owners, Virginia and Ralph Brauer. Animal Haven Ranch, about 30 miles

east of Bakersfield, has held state permits to shelter exotic animals since 1985. It is allowed to house up to nine primates at one



St. James, top, and LaDonna Davis, of West Covina, Calif., visit their chimpanzee Moe at Animal Haven Ranch in Caliente, Calif., in October 2004. Moe was taken from the Davis Los Angeles home in 1999 after biting off part of a woman's finger. On Thursday, St. James Davis was attacked by two other chimps at Animal Haven Ranch while visiting Moe.

time and is home to one spider monkey

"A big part of the investigation will be figuring out whether the owners were in compliance with regulations," Sheriff's Cmdr. Hal Chealander said

State wildlife and county health authorities were testing the chimps for rabies and other diseases that could affect the victims' health. Chealander said.

Davis, 62, and his wife, LaDonna Davis, 64, were visiting the sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of a 39-year-old chimpanzee, Moe, who was taken from their home in 1999 after biting off part of a woman's fin-

The couple had brought Moe a cake and were standing outside his cage when the two young male chimps, Ollie and Buddy, attacked the man

Two other chimns, females named Susie and Bones, also escaped from the cage. They were recovered outside the sanctuary five hours later.

Susie and Bones could have played a role in the attack, primate experts said. 'We know that one of the most reliable

predictors of increased male aggression is the presence of sexually receptive females," said Jeffrey French, a psychobiologist who studies pri-

mate behavior at the University of Nebraska, Omaha

The chimps chewed off most of Davis' face, tore off his foot and all of his fingers, and attacked his other limbs and genitals. Davis was transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he had sur



gery late Thursday night. The medical center would not release any information about Davis' condition on

Friday. Hospital spokeswoman Julie Smith said the family requested confidentiality. LaDonna Davis was bitten on the hand. She was released from the hospital Friday.

The Brauers would not speak to reporters, but a family friend gave a statements, which read, "All of us here at Animal Haven Ranch are praying for the recovery of St. James Davis and LaDonna Davis.

"This is the only incident in 20 years of operation," the statement said.

Kim Curtis reported from Havilah, and Terence

Arnold will always be Mr. Olympia to buff fans

BY ERICA WERNER The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The world knows Arnold Schwarzenegger as a movie star. Californians know him as their governor. But he'll forever be Mr. Olympia to bodybuilders competing in the annual Arnold Classic. "It's like when an all-time win-

ning coach retires, you still call him coach," said Andy Giordonello, a massive bodybuilder who spent Friday posing inside a cage in Columbus' convention center. As the Arnold Fitness Weekend got under way, crowds packed a cavernous exhibit hall where

booths hawked products from whey power drinks to hair plugs to saunas. Giant men walked arm in arm with women who looked like they could crush the average man's skull Indifferent to the snow flurries

outside, they wore short-shorts. bikini tops and muscle-T's On a stage at the end of the hall,

oiled women in bikinis flexed to pounding music.

Schwarzenegger, the muse of this singular subculture, arrived at the women's finals Friday night with his wife, Maria Shriv er, and their four children.



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, congratulates Ms. Figure International Jenny Lynn on Friday at the Arnold Classic in Ohio.

He handed out trophies in three women's divisions, including best figure competition. which went to a fellow Californian, Jenny Lynn. The Alamo, Calif., woman, who has won the event three years in a row, noted that she voted for Schwarzenegger, calling it a "surreal experience" to receive her trophy and \$10,000 check from him.

Schwarzenegger presented the top female bodybuilding award to Yaxeni Origuen of Venezuela, telling the muscular woman she would have given him some competition during his bodybuilding

Among bodybuilders, weightlifters and other devotees of the muscular form, the acclaim for Schwarzenegger appears univer-

People only differ in whether they describe him as the father of bodybuilding or its godfather, as an icon or a god or "the man."

"He's the godfather of this sport. He's inspired a whole bunch of people," said Michael Ogawa, a 35-year-old personal trainer from Las Vegas, who was manning a booth advertising "tri-

ple-layer Bonanza bars "He's an icon," said Irving Gelb, a photographer for Mus-clemag International who said bodybuilders

Schwarzenegger. "It's like he's a beacon, giving them hope and strength. He's the father of the

Lawmakers push against new eyeball jewelry trend

not a freak

anymore if

uou have a

tattoo. To be a

freak, you've

got to step up

a little bit.

BY MARY TALLON

The Associated Press SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Some

Illinois lawmakers want to make sure the twinkle in your eve doesn't come from iewelry. Repulsed by a body modification offered at a Dutch institute

- where tiny metal hearts and half-moons are surgically em 44It's like you're hedded in the whites of the eye

one lawmaker has proposed banning the practice in Illinois.

A House com mittee Thursday annroyed legisla tion that would make it a felony to implant jewel ry in someone's

eye. "I don't think anybody should be messing with eyeball, Democratic

Rep. Kevin Joyce said Friday. The procedure involves making a tiny slice in the membrane covering the eye and slipping in a small, flat piece of metal. The result is a shiny shape in the white of the eye. The procedure is performed under local anesthetic

Dr. Janak Koirala, assistant professor of medicine at Southern Illinois University, said he is concerned about the possibility of infection or other damage risks that would last as long as the person kept the jewelry in their eye.

"It's not like piercing the skin," he said.

In the United States, at least one California-based doctor is offering the procedure, but a tattoo artist said lawmakers are giving the issue more attention than it deserves.

> in the Midwest. when it comes to body modifica-tion, are very conservative, Kevin said Veara. 43-year-old owner of Black

"Most people

Owner of Moon Tattoos. Black Moon Tattoos He conceded. however, that as

tattoos become more mainstream, people in Europe and the U.S. coasts are undergoing more daring and possibly dangerous body modifications -larger and deeper piercings through various body parts.

"It's like you're not a freak anymore if you have a tattoo," Veara said. "To be a freak, you've got to step up a little bit."

Gag order no joke to Leno

Brad Garrett of 'Raymond' delivers host's Jackson jokes

BY LAURA WIDES The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Jay Leno says he can still write the Michael Jackson jokes, he just can't tell

them So while the "Tonight Show" host waits to hear whether he is exempt from a gag order barring potential witnesses from discussing Jackson's child molestation trial. Leno called on actor Brad Garrett to act as his Jackson

joke-telling surrogate. "As I'm sure you know, I was called as a witness in the Michael Jackson trial," Leno told his audi ence Friday night. "I'm going to tell the jury the same thing I'm telling you right now. I only rode that llama once. I didn't know it was underage.

"I'm not allowed to tell any Michael Jackson jokes. I can still write them." Leno added before handing the reins to Garrett. The co-star of "Everybody Loves Raymond" then reeled off several one liners, including this one: "They said this trial will probably last six months, although Michael Jackson asked for some time off

to entertain the troops. "OK, they're Cub Scout troops, but they're still troops."

Leno, who has been subpoenaed to testify at Jackson's trial, is seeking an exemption to Superi-Court Judge Rodney S. Melville's gag order, citing his

right to free speech. Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting a boy; conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to his alleged victim.

A legal motion filed on Leno's behalf argues Melville couldn't have intended for the order, issued more than a year ago, to limit "public personalities" from commenting on the case.

Applying the order to Leno would be prior restraint in viola-tion of the First Amendment and the California Constitution, the motion argues, and it asks the judge to clarify or lift it.

On Thursday, one of Jackson's attorneys, Robert Sanger, filed a response, arguing Leno should not be exempted from the order.

"While the need for a protective order is unfortunate and does come at some cost, it is necessary to protect Mr. Jackson's right to a



Jay Lend

fair trial," Sanger wrote. Then the lawyer tossed in his

own zinger.

"One is reminded of the depression that overtook the comedy community when Richard Nixon stepped down from the presiden-

about 50 people a year for their contributions to society. he said in a footnote to his mo-The only problem is that the 46-year-old Jackson has not

chest, that is.

Agency reported.

been among the prize's recipi-The singer's staff bought the

Jackson's

in Austria

VIENNA Austria - Austrians

recognized Michael Jackson's

star — the one he wore on his

The pop singer has been photo-

graphed before recent court ap-

pearances in California wearing

what experts here say is the "Order of Vienna," a medal

awarded to artists, businessmen

or others of merit, Austria Press

The gold star with an eagle in

the center has been bestowed to

jewelry causes stir

medal at an antique shop in downtown Vienna, APA reported

It is illegal in Austria to wear such medals if one has not earned them, and Jackson theoretically could face a fine in Aus-

City officials say they don't plan to press charges.

\$3,999 Value!

Family of accuser praises star on video

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. - The family of Michael Jackson's accuser praised the singer and called him a father figure in a video shown to the jury in the non star's child molestation case Friday.

"[My son] was the one who

asked him, 'Can I call you daddy?' and he said 'Of course.' " the accuser's mother said in the video.

Throughout, the family used the words "nice," "humble," "funny" and "fatherly" to dethe words scribe Jackson.

The video was recorded Feb. 19-20, 2003, two weeks after the airing of a TV documentary that damaged Jackson's image.

It was presented as the 18-vear-old sister of the accuser testified for a second day. Prosecutors allege Jackson's associates coerced the family into making the

video by holding them captive. The boy, 13 at the time, recalled in the video his first visit to Neverland and how he asked Jackson if he could sleep in his

room. Jackson said it was OK if parents gave permission, which they did, the boy said. Prosecutors allege that the boy was molested sometime after the

video was made.



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Concealed guns

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry signed a concealed handgun reciprocity agreement with South Caro-

Ima.

The deal allows those with concealed handgun licenses from Texas and South Carolina to legally carry concealed handguns in either state. Texas now has reciprocity agreements with 17

Pricey pipeline

LAS VEGAS — The Southern Nevada Water Authoriy said a pipeline to bring water to
Las Vegas from rural Nevada
could cost more than \$2 billion. Offcitals said the price would include
461 miles of pipeline, four pumping stations and about 200 miles of
power lines. The project would reduce dependence of southern Nevada's growing population on the Colorado River.

Snow wipes out tests

DEALTIMORE — At least 18 of Maryland's 24 school districts postponed the state's annual standardized tests because snow days have cut into preparation time. The tests were scheduled the standardized tests because the standardized tests and the standardized tests are standardized tests and the standardized tests and the

Pet scammer

GA ATLANTA—Police arrested a man they say took advantage of people searching for missing pets. Police say Andre Gould conned as many as 17 people in six states to wire him \$85 for a pet carrier to fly their dogs back to them. Gould received \$3,000 since December, but the owners never got their pets, police said.

Same place, new name

MO JEFFERSON CITY
After nearly two decades
of struggle, Southwest Missouri
State University will get a new
name. The House voted overwhelmingly to drop Southwest
from its name. The 120-35 vot
sends the bill to Gov. Matt Blunt,
who supports the change to Missouri State University. It would take effect Auz. 28.

Rundown runway

CAS ANTA PAULA — State inspectors won't allow Santa Paula Airport to reopen until the runway is lengthened. Erosion by the Santa Clara River's roiling storm runoff shortened the £569-foot runway to 1,200 feet. The shorter length failed to meet form to pepartness of Transportation. The airport is losing \$16,000 a day in revenue.

Ferry bill gains steam

HI HONOLULU—Lawmakers have cleared the way for plans to link the main Hawaiian islands by ferry, transportation cheaper than flying but feared by some residents for its possible risks to the environment.

After hearing three hours of testi-

spilled cartons of orange juice and frozen turkeys onto the highway. Authorities expect westbound traffic to remain blocked at Exit 3 well into the night, the sheriff said.

Rabbit at risk?

AMERICAN

ROUNDUP

mony on both sides of the issue

Wednesday, the Senate Transporta-

tion Committee voted to hold a bill

that would have required a de-

tailed environmental review for

the proposal.
"That goes a long way in sending

a message that the state really wants this," said John Garibaldi,

chief executive of Hawaii Superfer-

ry Inc. "They're not going to put up

Hawaii Superferry and some

state officials had said requiring an environmental review could

have scuttled the first serious at-

tempt in years to set up an interis-

land ferry system. Garibaldi said the requirement would have jeop-

Environmentalists are worried

about traffic, transportation of

alien pest species and endangering

LA SHREVEPORT — Two people were killed when three

tractor-trailers collided on Inter-

One of the rigs was traveling

eastbound when it crossed the median around 7:30 p.m. and hit an-

other tractor-trailer in the west-

bound lane. A third tractor-trailer

Authorities have not identified

One rig was charred, Prator

said. It is blocking both westbound

lanes of the interstate about

three-fourths of a mile east of the

Texas state line The accident also

Now that's a vawn

Waiting for his owner, Sandy Hood,

Cheyenne the Great Dane catches

some rays through the sunroof the

family SUV in a shopping mall parking lot in Bainbridge, Ohio.

the two bodies that have been pulled from the wreckage, Caddo

then collided with the other two.

Sheriff Steve Prator said.

Trailer wreck kills 2

humpback whales.

state 20, police said.

ardized \$200 million in funding.

roadblocks.

BOISE — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to decide by May 16 whether threats to the North American pygmy rabbit warrant a yearlong review that could lead to protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The agreement came in a settlement of a U.S. District Court lawsuit by environmental groups that contended the FWS had refused to consider their petition for protection of the rabbit.

The settlement was approved Thursday by Judge B. Lynn Winmill in Boise.

mill in Boise.

A similar review was given to the greater sage grouse, which shares the rabbits' habitat. It was completed Jan. 7, when Fish and Wildlife officials opted against protection for that species.

No parole for killer

CA RIVERSIDE – A California man convicted of killing an off-duty police officer nearly 19 years ago, in one of the nation's first "road rage" fatalities, will not be released on parole.

Patricia Dwyer was killed on Aug. 22, 1986, after being shot through the chest by an irate motorist. Harold Harvey Hawks, 45, was convicted of second-degree murder and is serving a sentence of 15 years to life in prison.

Hawks' fifth request for release was denied this week by a two-member panel of the state Board of Prison Terms, which determined that Hawks' "told disregard for human suffering and the callous nature of the crime warranted more time in custody,"

Name that monkey

NEW YORK — The right to name a new species of monkey sold Thursday for \$650,000 in an online auction, with the funds going to protect the Bolivian habitat where the species lives, the

Web site that handled the sale said. The winning bidder, who outbid Ellen DeGeneres, chose to remain anonymous for now, said Kelly Fiore, director of business development for the New York-based auc-

tion venue, Charity Folks.

There was no immediate information on what the winner planned to name the species, but an announcement might be made later. Fiore said.

Subway commercials

SAN FRANCISCO — Advertisements have invaded movie theaters, airplane video screens and ATMs, and now they're coming to the tunnels of San Francisco's subway system, where dark walls will be replaced by 20-second animated commercials

The Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors approved a plan for the tunnel ads, which affix hundreds of posters in sequence to give passengers the illusion of a movie between stations.



Going with the floe

John Parsons of Niwot, Colo., makes his way down an ice floe at the Ouray



A sinking feeling

A two-story home in Lake City, Fla., sits on the edge of a sinkhole that



Unexpected home Patrick Doss, of Fredericksburg, Va., examines a stuffed bear in Gander Mountain outdoors store in Spotsylvania County, Va. Mike Riter, of Alexar dria, Va., killed the 9-foot, 1,000-pound Kodiak brown bear during a hunting trip to Alaska. He paid \$9,500 to have it stuffed and sent to his Virginia home, only to find it was too big to fit through the door.



Oh, what a feeling! Sergant Tommi DeRudder screams to the crowd as she cruises down the soft the 639th Quartermaster Company. The soldiers returned home from more than a vear's duth in Iraa.



Battling a blaze
Berwick firefighters Tim Deitrich,
left, and Bruce Angel battle flames
breaking through the roof of an
off-campus student house near
Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg. Pa.



Phillip Pickard walks under blooming redbuds smothered by snow in Roanoke, Va. Recent warm weather caused the trees to bloom, but a

Alleged hazing death

CA SACRAMENTO — Four members of an unchartered fraternity were charged with involuntary manslaughter after a pledge died from drinking too much weten during hearing.

much water during hazing.
Four other members of the Chi
Tau fraternity at the University of
California, Chico, were charged
Thursday with hazing, a misdemeanor. The four people charged
with manslaughter could face up to
four years in prison.

Matthew Carrington, 21, died of water intoxication Feb. 2 after being forced to drink water throughout the night in the basement of the off-campus fraternity house.

Police officers arrested

NEW YORK — Five veteran police officers have been arrested on charges they accepted counterfeit Coach bags and other merchandise from a street peddler as bribes, a prosecutor said Thursday.

The officers, all assigned to Manhattan's 13th Precinct, were charged with third-degree bribe receiving, receiving a reward for official misconduct, and official misconduct, said Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

If convicted of the most serious charge of bribe receiving, the officers could be sentenced to up to seven years in prison.

The street peddler, Jamil Faied, 44, was charged with third-degree bribery, which also carries a prison sentence of up to seven years.

Chicken feet crackdown

OH CLEVELAND — Health officials have seized boneless chicken feet at several Ohio stores, part of an expanding effort to prevent an outbreak of the bird flu.

Officials planned to visit about 200 Asian restaurants and markets around Cuyahoga County on Friday, explaining the health risks involved with a product that the U.S. Department of Agriculture says was illegally smuggled into the

country.
The U.S. government banned imports of birds and poultry products from Asia last year.

Some chicken feet, an Asian delicacy, were seized at a Cleveland grocery store on Wednesday. Authorities also found them at three stores in Columbus and one in Whitehall, said Paul Panico, head of food safety for the agriculture department.

Vegas mayor loves gin

LAS VEGAS — Sin City's mayor made no apologies Thursday after being criticized for extolling gin to a class of fourth-oragles

Mayor Oscar Goodman said he was just being himself when he told elementary school students that drinking was one of his hobbies and that the one thing he would want if stranded on an island is a bottle of sin.

"I answered the question honestly and truthfully," Goodman told reporters. "I'm not going to lie to children. I'm not going to say I would take a teddy bear or a Bible or something like that."

Asked by a reporter if he had a drinking problem, Goodman answered. "Oh. absolutely not. I love

to drink."

Moments later, he cut off questions and walked out of the news

Cell phone ban

HONOLULU — Motorists who chat carelessly on their cellular phones while stuck in Hawaii's traffic may soon need to think of investing in a headset.

Anyone caught driving while using a hand-held cell phone would be subject to a \$200 fine under a bill that passed out of the House on Thursday.

The measure includes an exemption for those making calls because of an emergency.

Some lawmakers questioned the need for the bill.

It's already illegal to drive inattentively in Hawaii, said Rep. Galen Fox, R-Waikiki-Ala Moana, speaking in opposition of the bill on the floor of the House.

Big lobster a mere shell

PA PITTSBURGH — A gigantic lobster that may have survived two world wars and Prohibition before being plucked from the ocean will live on — but only as a shell of its former self.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG

The Philsburgh 200 & PPG Aquarium plans to keep the shell of the 22-pound lobster, named Bubba, and use its remains to educate school children, said Rachel Capp, a 200 spokeswoman.

Some of Bubba's meat will be sent to labs for testing as officials try to determine why Bubba died, Capp said Thursday.

Postcard 68 years late

OR ROSEBURG — Boston-area businessman Edward Hammond never heard back on whether a Roseburg store was willing to handle the sale of his stamp collections.

That's because his postcard, mailed Oct. 13, 1937, didn't arrive until Monday.

Postal carrier Kelly Pace was sorting mail when he spotted the brown card with its printed one-cent stamp. It was addressed simply to "Roseburg Book Store, Roseburg Oregon." That store opened in 1910 in a building now occupied by Roseburg Book & Sta-

tionery.

Pace delivered it with the rest of the day's mail.

Duane Dodge, a supervisor at the Roseburg Post Office, said the card is in good shape and speculated that it may have spent the last

68 years somewhere undisturbed. Benadryl-related death

ABBEVILLE — The death of a 4-month-old child given Benadryl at a child-care center has drawn renewed attention to the over-the-counter allergy medication's unauthorized use as a way of quieting children.

Sherry Bayne, 44, owner of Sherry's Home Daycare was charged with involuntary manslaughter and neglect in the death of Caleb O'Daniel, who was given Benadryl without parental permission

Since 2000, there have been nearly a dozen media reports nationally of Benadryl being used for sedation of children at day-care centers, with at least four ending in death.

Photos and stories from wire services

Frosty blooms recent snow put spring on hold.

	AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/									
SYNDUX, MARCH 5, 7005 [AFN-FAMILY] (AFN-MOVIE) (AFN-EUROPE) (AFN-KOREA) (AFN-NEWS) (AFN-SPORTS) (SPECTRUM) (AFN-PACIFIC)										
9:00	House of Mouse	(:03) Movie ★★% "Birdy"	Movie * * "An Extremely	Andromeda Leader's daughter	Headline News	PGA Golf Ford Championship	Latin Lifestyles	Andromeda Leader's daught		
9:30	Animaniacs	(1984) Nicolas Cage, Matthew	Goofy Movie" (2000) Voices of	kidnapped.	America's Black Forum	at Doral Third Round, From	Urban Style	kidnapped.		
10:00	Ed, Edd n Eddy	Modine. An injured Vietnam vet is obsessed by a desire to fly.	Bill Farmer, Jason Marsden.	Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show	Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami (Taned)	Fantasy Camp	Headline News		
10:30	Fillmore "To Mar a Stall" (EI)		AFNews on Assignment	ESPNews	Navy/Marine Corps News	іншін (паров)	Roker on the Road	ESPNews		
11:00	A Walk in Your Shoes	(:11) Movie * : "Godzilla"	Destinations	Judging Amy 'Sex and the	Big Story Weekend Edition		Redical Sabbatical	Judging Amy "Sex and the		
11:30	Planet's Funniest Animals	(1998, Science Fiction) Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno.	Ebert-Movies	Single Mother	With Rita Crosby		All-American Festivals	Single Mother		
12:00	Nick News Special Edition	A giant, mutated lizard takes a	Headline News Studio 5	Movie ** "U-571" (2000) Matthew McConaughey. Allied	20/20	SportsCenter	The Suze Orman Show	Movie ** "U-571" (2000) Matthew McConaughey. Allie		
12:30	Happy Days Movie ** "Beethoven" (1992,	bite out of the Big Apple.	NASCAR Racing Busch Series	sailors hatch a dangerous plan	Fox and Friends	Tennis Davis Cup First Round	Myth Busters "Alcatraz Es-	sailors hatch a dangerous pla		
13:00 13:30	Comedy) Charles Grodin, Bon-	(:40) Movie + + "Pearl Har-	Mexico 200. From Autrodro-	to capture a Nazi sub.	rox and riterius	Croatia vs. United States.	cape"	to capture a Nazi sub.		
14:00	nie Hunt, Dean Jones.	bor* (2001, Drama) Ben Af-	mo Hermanos Rodriguez in	Headline News	Fox and Friends	Doubles match. From Carson,	This Far by Faith: African-	Headline News		
14:30	Movie * * "Bingo" (1991,	fleck, Josh Hartnett, Kate Beck-	Mexico City. (Live)	Scrubs "My Case Study"		Calif. (Taped)	American Spiritual Journeys	Scrubs "My Case Study"		
15:00	Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche	insale. Two lifelong friends are caught up in the Japanese at-		Meet the Press	CBS News Sunday Morning	SportsCenter	War Dogs	Meet the Press		
15:30		tack.	ESPNews							
16:00	Doug (El)		WWE Smackdown!	America's Black Forum		Sports Reporters	JAG "New Gun in Town"	America's Black Forum		
16:30	The Wild Thornberrys			Access Hollywood	Face the Nation	NBA Fastbreak		Access Hollywood		
17:00	The Fairly OddParents	Inside the Actors Studio "Clint Eastwood" Clint Eastwood	Andromeda Leader's daughter kidnanned		Headline News	To Be Announced	The Best Of			
17:30	Rugrats Nigel Marvin Specials	Eastwood Citril Eastwood.	ESPNews	ESPNews	Navy/Marine Corps News Late Edition Primetime	College Basketball Kentucky	Good Eats My Wife and Kids	ESPNews		
18:00	Niger Marvin Specials "Meerkats" Meekrats		NRA Game Time	Motorcycle Racing: World Su- nercross Grand Prix	Late Edition Primetime	at Florida (Live)		Motorcycle Racing: World S percross Grand Prix		
18:30	America's Funniest Home	Movie *** "Space Cow-	NBA Game Time NBA Basketball Dallas Mayer-	Motorcycle Racing: World Su-	1		King of the Hill Hope & Faith (Part 2 of 2)	Motorcycle Racing: World S		
19:00	Videos	boys" (2000, Adventure) Clint	icks at Houston Rockets From	percross Grand Prix	1		All of Us Tia's father visits.	percross Grand Prix		
20:00	Diary of Anne Frank (Part 2 of	Eastwood Tommy Lee Jones	Toyota Center in Houston.	IndyCar Racing Toyota Indy	FOX News	College Basketball Teams to	To Be Announced	IndyCar Racing Toyota Indy		
20:00	2)	NASA reunites four aging fly-	(Live)	300 From Homestead-Miami	I	Be Announced. (Live)		300. From Homestead-Miami		
21:00	1	boys for an urgent mission.		Speedway in Homestead, Fla. (Live)	FOX News	1	NCIS "Reveille" Gibbs finally	Speedway in Homestead, Fla (Live)		
21:30	1	(:25) Movie "Hunter: Back in	NBA Basketball Detroit Pis-	(Live)			comes face to face with Ari.	(Live)		
22:00	The Cosby Show	Force" (2003, Drama) Fred Driver Stenfanie Kramer	tons at Sacramento Kings. From ABCO Arena in Sacra-		Meet the Press	College Basketball Duke at	Friends	1		
22:30	Home Improvement	anyan anapana maman	mento Calif (Live)	Beyond the Glory		North Carolina. (Live)	Seinfeld "The Soup Nazi"	Beyond the Glory		
23:00	Touched by an Angel "The Perfect Game"	Movie **: "Bring It On"			FNS with Chris Wallace		Mad TV			
23:30	Periect Game:	(2000) Kirsten Dunst.		ESPNews				ESPNews		
				MONDAY, MARCH 7,						
00:00	The Fairly OddParents	(11:00) Movie "Bring It On"	Women's College Basketball Teams TBA. (Live)	Play With Me Sesame	Tim Russert	SportsCenter	The X-Files "The Sixth Extinc- tion II: Amor Fati" (Part 2 of 2)	Play With Me Sesame		
00:30	Rugrats Home videos. Nigel Marvin Specials	(:45) Movie **: "Brighton Beach Memoirs" (1986, Com-	lealis IDA. (Live)	Bear in the Big Blue House Little Bill	People in the News		Hope & Faith (Part 2 of 2)	Bear in the Big Blue House		
1:00	Nigel Marvin Specials "Meerkats" Meekrats	edy-Drama) Blythe Danner.		Wheel of Fortune	People in the News	NRA Baskethall Miami Heat at	All of Us Tia's father visits.	Wheel of Fortune		
1:30	America's Funniest Home	Jonathan Silverman, Bob Dishy.	College Baskethall Wake For-	Dr. Phil	This Week	Cleveland Cavaliers. From	To Be Announced	Dr. Phil		
2:30	Videos	Coming Attractions	est at North Carolina State.	DI. FIIII	IIIIS WEEK	Gund Arena in Cleveland. (Live)	TO DE ATITIOUTICEU	DI. FIIII		
3:00	Diary of Anne Frank (Part 2 of	Movie +++ "Space Cow-	(Live)	Oprah Winfrey	Dateline International		NCIS "Reveille" Gibbs finally	Oprah Winfrey		
3:30	2)	boys" (2000, Adventure) Clint					comes face to face with Ari.	.,,		
4:00	1	Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones. NASA reunites four aging fly-	ESPNews	Headline News	CNN Sunday Night	Beyond the Glory	Friends	Headline News		
4:30	1	boys for an urgent mission.	ESPNews	Judge Judy	1		Seinfeld "The Soup Nazi"	Judge Judy		
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	1 -	Meet the Press	Access Hollywood	CNN Presents	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood		
5:30		(:25) Movie "Hunter: Back in Force" (2003, Drama) Fred		(:25) Guiding Light			Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light		
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	Dryer, Stepfanie Kramer.	Headline News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	College Basketball West Coast Conference Tournament	Body Shaping	(:13) General Hospital		
6:30	Blue's Clues (EI)	John Travolta Revealed Actor	ESPNews	W 11	60 Minutes	Semifinal Gonzaga vs. Team	TIPical Mary Ellen			
7:00 7:30	Dragon Tales (EI) Bob the Builder	John Travolta Hevealed Actor	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	Larry King Live	60 Minutes	TBA. From Santa Clara, Calif.	ine view	Aladdin "Forget Me Lots" ChalkZone		
8:00	The Wiggles "Foodman"	Hollywood Backstories	Little Bill	Mucha Lucha	Fox Magazine	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	Mucha Lucha		
	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune	Mary-Kate and Ashley	TOX magazine	Spoi isoeniei	Lilletti Live	Kim Possible "Job Unfair"		
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Remembrance" (1996)	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	The Beltway Boys	Arena Football Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!		
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Eva LaRue, Angie Dickinson, A.	l '	Headline News	Fox News Watch	Announced. (Taped)	Paula's Home Cooking	Headline News		
10:00	Arthur "Buster's Breathless."	woman marries into a political family and finds trapedy.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Bulls and Bears	1	Designers' Challenge	ESPNews		
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	,	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Cavuto on Business	1	Fashion Emergency	Pacific Report		
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:48) Movie *** "Speed"		60 Minutes	Forbes		The Soup	60 Minutes		
11:30	Stanley	(1994) Keanu Reeves. A transit bus is wired to explode if it drops	(:17) General Hospital		Cashin' In		The King of Queens			
12:00	Dora the Explorer	below 50 mph.	Headline News	Without a Trace "The Line"	Dateline NBC	SportsCenter	That '70s Show 'Streaking'	Without a Trace "The Line"		
12:30	The Wiggles Bob the Builder	Manda I I I I I I Carrero II	Judge Judy	ER 'One More for the Boar!'	American Morning	DOA Call Faul Chama' '	Girlfriends	ED IO Nove for the O		
13:00	Bob the Builder Dragon Tales (EI)	Movie *** "Courage Un- der Fire" (1996, Drama) Den-	Today Joan Allen; Sylvester Stallone: Supar Bay Leonard:	En Une More for the Hoad"	American Morning	PGA Golf Ford Championship at Doral Final Bound From	Charmed "Look Who's Barking	En Une More for the Hoad"		
13:30	Blue's Clues Art show. (EI)	zel Washington, Meg Ryan.	hotel mattress wars.	Pacific Report	-	Doral Golf Resort and Spa in	Strong Medicine "Childcare"	Pacific Report		
14:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	(:44) Movie + + + + "The	1	The Tonight Show With Jay	1	Miami. (Taped)	Surving medicalle Childcale	The Tonight Show With Jay		
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Sting" (1973, Comedy-Drama) Paul Newman, Robert Redford.	Aladdin "Forget Me Lots"	Leno	1		Any Day Now "Who Aban-	Leno		
15:30	Growing Pains "Springsteen"	Paul Newman, Robert Redford.	ChalkZone ChalkZone	Late Show With David Letter-	1	l	doned Who?"	Late Show With David Lette		
16:00	Pokémon "The Crystal Onix"	Two Depression-era con men plot to swindle a crime lord.	Mucha Lucha	man	FOX News	SportsCenter	Third Watch "And Zeus	man		
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	ľ	Kim Possible "Job Unfair"	The Late Late Show With			Wept"	The Late Late Show With		
17:00	Doug (El)	Access Hollywood	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	Tennis Davis Cup First Round	Law & Order "White Lie"	Craig Ferguson		
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Dennis Miller		- Croatia vs. United States. From Carson, Calif. (Taped)		Dennis Miller		
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Entertainment Tonight	ESPNews		FOX News	rrom carson, can: (raped)	The Simpsons			
18:30	Rugrats		AFN Evening News	Countdown With Keith Olber-	0.11.1100		Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olbe		
19:00	Lizzie McGuire (EI) The Brothers Garcia	Movie ** "Reindeer Games" (2000) Ben Affleck, Gary Sinise.	60 Minutes	Mann Access Hollywood	Dateline NBC		The Dead Zone "Cycle of Vio- lence" School violence	Mann Access Hollywood		
19:30	The Brothers Garcia Smallville "Redux"	An ex-con is roped into a Christ-	Without a Trace "The Line"	Access Hollywood Headline News	FOX News	MLB Preseason Baseball	Law & Order "Kid Pro Quo"	Access Hollywood Headline News		
20:00	omanville neuux	mas Eve casino heist.	Aumont a trace the rige.	Entertainment Studios.com	TOX INSTITUTE	Chicago Cubs at Texas Ran-	Law & Order Mario Q00	Entertainment Studios.com		
20:30	Boy Meets World	(8:59) Movie * * * "Meet the	ER "One More for the Road"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	gers. From Surprise Stadium in Surprise, Ariz. (Live)	Monster House 'Old West	The Hot List		
21:00	Boy Meets World	Parents" (2000, Comedy)		Headline News	o mai onspaid dilliai	Surprise, Ariz. (Live)	House'	Headline News		
22:00	The Cosby Show	Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Teri	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	1	Friends	Good Morning America		
22:30	Home Improvement	Polo.	The Tonight Show With Jay	1			Seinfeld "The Secret Code"	1		
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Here I	Movie *** "Frequency" (2000) Dennis Quaid.	Leno Late Show-Letterman		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Seinfeld "The Wink" Blind Date			



Sunday, March 6, 2005 STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 27

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's Personality PARA DR

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, 8ox 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossib

The engagement of Seal and Heidi Klum reminded me of another black singer and blonde beauty: Sammy Davis Jr. and Mai Britt, in the 1960s. What brought them together? — Annie Warren, Richmond. Va.

The British pop star and the German supermodel Alare perfectly matched. Seal (born Sealhenry Samuel), 42, has embraced Heidi's year-old daughter Leni as his own and even learned to sing her to sleep with German Jullabies. And Heidi, 31, describes Seal's Dec. 23 proposal as "a unique experience": After a helicopter ride, he gave her a 10-carat yellow-diamond ring at 14,000 feet, atop a glacier in Whister. British Columbia. Cool.

Why did George W. Bush dump Brent Scowcroft as chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board? — Mark Clayborn, Nashville, Tenn.

ABecause the retired General Scowcroft, 79— Who earlier served as the first President Bush's national security adviser—publicly criticized the second President Bush's decision to go to war in Iraq. For that, the White House has never forgiven him.



novieweb.co

Barbra Streisand, above, came out of nowhere with her comedic turn last year in "Meet the Fockers"; Kirstie Alley, below, spares no humiliation in her new cable show, "Fat Actress."



Robert De Niro and Cathy Moriarty were in New York for the 25th anniversary re-release of "Raging Bull" on Jan. 27, but not Joe Pesci. Why? — Dotty-Ann S., Laredo, Texas

Because Pesci prefers golf to publicity events: He was playing in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in California with his pal, golf pro John Daly. Perhaps he wasn't missed. We hear his prickly personality is one reason Pesci, 62, has had so many ups and downs in his career — and three ex-wives — and hasn't landed a good role since "Casino" in 1995.

Kirstie Alley has a new TV show called "Fat Actress," Why would she humilate herself? — C.E., Milwaukee, Wis.
A "Fat Actress," premiering stateside
Monday night, was Kirstie's idea of
a way to get the last laugh at those
who have ridiculed her ballooning

Anontaly light, was Kriste's stated a way to get the last laugh at those who have ridiculed her ballooning weight. The improvisational Showtime series comes horrose like a realization of the state of

QI heard that Amy Tan, the best-selling author of "The Joy Luck Club," was ill. How is she doing? — J.W., Chevy Chase, Md.

ATan, 53. tells us she's "95 percent Afunctional" but still recovering from Lyme disease, which went undiagnosed for years despite visits to 11 doctors and SSQ,000 in medical bills. She had severe neurological probable of the state of the

Can you tell me about the song that begins and ends the film "Closer"? — Kelly Carter, Dallas, Texas

To bookend his dark film, director Mike

Nichols chose "The Blower's Daughter,"
by Irish singer-songwriter Damien Rice, 31.
It's included on "O," his 2003 debut album.

How has the recent death of Doris Day's son, record producer Terry Melcher, affected her?

— Diane D. (city not provided)

ADay, 80, is still recovering from the loss of her fonly child. She and Melcher — who died of skin cancer in November at the age of 62 — were very close and shared a commitment to her nonprofit Doris Day Animal Foundation. The actress tells us he plans to dedicate a special area of her dog-friendly Cypress Inn in Carmel, Calif., to her son's memory.

QI loved Barbra Streisand in "Meet the Fockers."
What are the chances we'll see her in another movie soon? — Roy Watson, Salem, Mary, Mary

Agood. Streisand, 62, hadn't done a film in eight years ("The Mirror Has Two Faces") or a comedy in 23 years ("All Night Long"). She told pals that she really enjoyed acting again. The critica and audiences loved Barbra as a comedienne—and she loves being loved. We predict she will find thart lo stay away from the screen for long.

Mwy did he leave? — Germaline Pettit, Easton,

After eight seasons, he'd done all he could with the role, says Jackson, 54. He decided to take time off to explore other acting mediums, including the New York stage. He has been replaced as the senior officer on "JAC" by David Andrews, 52, who plays Gen. Gordon Cresswell.

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STARS STRIPES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Combat MOSs 'earn' badge

I keep reading about the new Close Combat Badge. All I read is people complaining about why they don't have a badge and combat military occupational specialties

When I enlisted, I chose infantry because I wanted to be the one on the front lines toe to toe against the enemy. So the first time an infantryman makes contact, it is something he has been waiting for since he joined: all the sweat and pain suffered through training finally put to the ultimate test.

Same thing goes with other combat MOSs. I understand that when a noncombat MOS makes contact he or she feels a badge is deserved, but the difference is that it is not your mission - you were just at the wrong place and at the wrong time. In infantry, we go on patrols to look for the fight.

I give you respect because you fought back and kept on with the mission. Those of us in a combat MOS have earned the badge because we trained and used our skills for our main mission, to engage and destroy the enemy.

Pfc. Carlos Moncada Forward Operating Base Justice, Iraq

The female factor

In November, I postulated ["The CIB regulation," Letters, Nov. 9] the Army would not issue the Combat Infantryman Badge to soldiers with military occupational specialties other than infantry, because it would expose the canard that women are not serving in prohibited units and not conducting prohibited missions.

Army Regulation 600-13, Army Policy for the Assignment of Female Soldiers, states:

"The Army's assignment policy for female soldiers allows women to serve in any officer or enlisted specialty or position except in those specialties, positions, or units (battalion size or smaller) which are assigned a routine mission to engage in direct combat, or which collocate routinely with units assigned a direct combat mission

With the recent creation of the Close Combat Badge - an award equivalent to

by G.B. Trudeau

Tell us what you think

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the CIB, but for armor, cavalry, combat en gineering and field artillery soldiers -Army has taken its first official step down the slippery slope leading to full integration of the sexes.

The CCB is an official recognition that soldiers from other combat arms branches are "... assigned a routine mission to engage in direct combat. ..." The Army is, in effect, declaring that the changing face of modern warfare is exposing other branches to the missions and dangers traditionally left to the infantry.

But, what do we do about the military police performing a cordon-and-search? What about that patrol led by a cook, a chemical noncommissioned officer or an aviation mechanic? What about that air defense artillery unit conducting counter-insurgency operations, knocking down doors, getting into firefights, dying in ambushes

Oh, that's right. There are women in those formations. Caught in the conundrum of doing what

is right (recognizing soldiers with the CCB) and flaunting both the law (USC Title 10) and ignoring its regulations (AR 600-13), the Army, as the biblical prophet Hosea warned, has "... sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Kenneth C. Jensen

Hanau, Germany









Europe's 'hardship tours'

I know this will not stop the letters, and I have only had the opportunity to visit Europe for two weeks on temporary duty throughout my 16-year Army career.

I would love to be assigned there; in fact, I will work on that after my yearlong deployment to the Middle East is over, but usually the Personnel Command has to force someone to leave to allow others to rotate in.

I have never heard anyone come back from a tour in Europe and express how great it is to be back in the United States because it was too expensive overseas. In fact, usually people come back with their new BMWs and wonder how soldiers are supposed to live off an E-5's salary without the cost-of-living allowance. Furthermore, they are shocked at how many more details, taskings and other missions soldiers have to perform stateside, besides training for our wartime mission.

I think it would be great for my family to visit France, Germany, Austria and all those historic European countries for \$40-\$50 worth of gasoline! Luckily, with U.S. plans to shut more European bases and keep more military members stateside when not deployed to Central Com-mand, you will not have to suffer as many "hardship tours" in Europe.

So, go on, keep complaining about the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Soon more of you can shop at Wal-Mart in the States.

Sgt. 1st Class David Smoak Camp As Saliyah, Qatar

German troops are a delight

I just wanted to say how glad I am the German troops are staving, at least until September.

My opinion has nothing to do with the military or with politics. It's just that these young soldiers keep the traffic flowing onto Ramstein base efficiently. They are pleasant. When inspecting vehicles, they are professional and polite.

In a day that is potentially filled with stressors, what more can one ask for when entering the base? I am grateful that they are helping our military do its job.

Sally Stebbins Friday Ramstein Air Base, Germany







OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Bird flu poses deadly threat Chicago Tribune

The prospect of an avian flu pandemic has served to remind the United States and the world that the forces of nature can be far more lethal than anything created by man. The World Health Organization recently warned that the risk of pandemic poses the "gravest possible danger" to the world as the virus has become "entrenched, endemic and versatile."

The U.S. isn't on the brink of an avian flu epidemic, Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reassured last week. But the experts agree it is only a matter of time becomes one new virulent strain of influenza with the control of the

What makes entirely new flu strains like the bird flu so deadly is that most people have no immunity. Humankind is virgin territory, and the virus becomes an engine of death and disease with horrific consequences....

We know much more about influenza now than we did then. ... All of that could slow or lessen the severity of an outbreak. But a new strain of flu has the potential to be a widespread killer.

Repeal 'don't ask, don't tell' The Miami Herald

The Pentagon policy on gays in the military, known as "don't ask, don't tell," isn't working. It hurts recruitment, impedes retention and costs too much. That's the conclusion of the just-released Government Accountability Office report that underlines the need to rethink this 12-year-old nolicy.

The report found that the Pentagon had to spend at least \$191 million to recruit and train replacements for some 9,500 soldiers discharged for their sexual orientation. Of that number, the GAO said, 750 held critical occupations in the military, including translators with skills in languages such as Arabic and Korean that are vital to existing U.S. security concerns...

Most of the discharged personnel wanted to remain in the service. More important, there is no evidence that they were causing problems. They ran afoul of the service rules because their sexual orientation became known, which, under the policy, is forbidden...

Perhaps "don't ask, don't tell" made sense at one time, relaxing the rule that banned homosexuality altogether. It makes no sense today. The policy should be repealed, and men and women who want to serve their country in the armed forces should be allowed to do so without regard to sexual orientation.

A case for regulation The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

The ChoicePoint Inc. debacle, the largest case of identity therf in U.S. history, shows why we need better privacy protection nationally. What happened Crooks posed as check-cashing companies or debt-collection firms to gain access to ChoicePoint's database of personal data records on millions of people, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers and credit reports. These 50 false combers and credit reports. These 50 false com-



panies paid fees of \$100 to \$200 to Choice-Point, which did not verify if they were real businesses with a "legitimate business reason" to access personal financial data.

We wouldn't even know about this scandal without a 2003 California law that requires businesses to notify consumers when personal data have been accessed II-legally. ChoicePoint notified 35,000 Californians but now acknowledges that at least 110,000 people outside the state were af-

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission should be overseeing information firms such as ChoicePoint as it does other companies that handle financial records. Regulations that govern credit reports should apply to their databases.

And access to credit reports should be better regulated. ...

Clear Skies Act clouds reality The Citizen's Voice, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

This week, a Senate committee is preparing to vote on President Bush's Clear Skies Act — an initiative that will overhaul the nation's emission standards. Contrary to its name, Clear Skies is an industry-friend-by bill that actually weakens environmental laws already on the books and relaxes controls on foxic power-plant emissions. Some power-plant emissions from power-plant emissions from power plants must be reduced to 5 tons per year by 2008. Clear Skies would permit 25 tons of mercury — or five times as much — to be released each year through 2010.

When the Clear Skies proposal was drafted in 2001 (using language largely written by representatives of the power nlant industry) scientists were forbidden by the White House to commission studies or present information that might undermine the proposed changes to mercury emission standards. And last week, two national organizations that went on record in opposition to the Clear Skies Act because it is "far too lenient" were ordered to turn over their financial and tax records to the federal government. If President Bush's initiative becomes law, it would be the first time in the history of the 1970 landmark Clean Air Act that pollution rules were relaxed instead of made more stringent.

Congress must not allow our country to move backward on critical environmental issues. The health of our nation's children is too important.

Reserve troops deserve better St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times

With ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military relies heavily on Reserve troops. Yet when those soldiers are wounded in the line of duty, too often they find they cannot rely on the military.

One of those is John Allen, an Army Special Forces team seguent in Afghanistan, where he was seriously injured. Back home with damage to his brain, legs and vision, Allen sought a standard extension to his active-duty status so he could continue to receive medical care. Because of bureautoratic foul-ups, however, Allen has been dropped from active duty several times, which meant that some of his medical appointments were canceled. Even his pregant wife was refused treatment at a military hospital until a commander intervened.

In all, Allen suffered a nearly \$12,000 loss of pay and, as he described it, "intense and indescribable stress." Unfortunately, Allen's situation is far from unique....

The military has struggled to keep up with a growing reliance on Reserve troops, but unless it starts treating them better it will be difficult to attract new recruits. ...

It is a national shame, and Congress shouldn't wait for the military to get around to fixing the problem.

Bush's swelling government The Anniston (Ala.) Star

When Bill Clinton amounced the "era of big government is over," soon-tob--president George W. Bush wasn't listening. Orifie was listening, he wasn't paying attention. For today, in Washington, government is big and getting bigger. ... But instead of advancing the Gingrich-Dole agenduring his first term in office. Bush created a new Cabinet department, Homeland cultimates the state of the grant of the state of the grant of the gran

To this, add the budget-busting Medicare prescription drug plan that will cost the nation who-knows-how-much before the decade is out. During Bush's first term, government did anything but shrink.

... Fiscal conservatives and states-rights Republicans aren't buying it. Over at the Cato Institute, a conservative think-tank that usually supports the president, some are openly hoping "that there would be an electoral rebuke of big (-government) Republicans like there was when the tectonic plates shifted in 1994."

The problem with that, of course, is such a shift could erase the GOP's small majority, if the Democrats are able to turn the political tables and become the party of small ("smart" would be the better word; government and fiscal responsibility. That would require dramatically changing the public perception of the Democratic Party, but with the Bush record to run against, it could hannen.

Less fodder for death row Los Angeles Times

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision Tuesday to bar the execution of juvenile murderers has come at a pivotal time in this nation's long and agonized debate over the death penalty.

Unlike in the cases of the 100-plus death row defendants released in recent years when DNA or other evidence proved them innocent, Christopher Simmons guilt was not in doubt. Simmons was 17 and a Missiouri high school juinor when he and a friend entered Shirley Crook's house, bound the 46-year-old woman with duct tape, drove her to a state park and threw her from a bridge to drown in the water below. Before the crime, Simmons pragged to friends that they would "get Compared the Compared to the compared to

The question before the high court was the fairness and propriety of Simmons' sentence... Because teens are still emotional by immature, they cannot be held responsible in the same degree as adults for their actions, however unforgivable, wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy for a sharply divided court.

The high court's new ruling comes three years after it outlawed the death penalty for the mentally retarded. Both decisions were pointedly grounded in what the could escribes as a changing national consensus on capital punishment. Those decisions magnify as well as reflect the public's doubts... Add in many other obvious incuities — name a rich person awaiting execution, for one — and death row is increase ground for the product of the contraction of the contractio

Sunday Horoscope

as the moon void of course urges us to relax and let down our emo tional guard. The moon moves into Aquarius later in the day, and it feels right to lightly connect with friends - things hardly get deeper than "How's the weather? but genuine warmth ema-**Holiday Mathis** nates from even the most surface-level conversa-

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 6). You explore the landscape of your own psyche this year and discover talents you didn't even know you had. Invest in yourself, and don't be stingy. There are many spring romantic offers, but you're not sure whom you trust. Keep things low key. Insist on getting paid better, and you'll find greater security in May. Love signs are Cancer and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You help yourself most when you help another. It's the perfect time to straighten out misunderstandings

(probably over money) with a partner. The much-needed dose of reality you provide is appreciated TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more honest you are, the

better life feels. Don't waste time trying to change what has already been decided - on to the next thing! All forward movement is good, though it won't seem that

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you give yourself the same advice you dish out, you're extra lucky! Being graceful in the face of change is more important than perfection. Romantic conversations go well, especially if your love is a Scorpio or Pisces.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Do what's necessary to create more love in your life. This might include working less, playing more and making yourself available to interested people. A dream clues you to where the end of the rain-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some of your friends want to make it OK for you to be less than all you could

be. It's time to add new names and numbers to your database. This takes moxie, but those with moxie usually get what they want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want to draw the line, but

ultimatums in love won't work. Keep the lines of communication

open. It could be time to learn the fine art of allow ing others to think that your plan was their idea

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct.

23). Your efforts to be interesting pay off. Fun and unusual topics of conversation make you irresistible to the very people you consider so sophisticated and special.

A health breakthrough is featured too

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Exercise good judgment. Since your natural enthusiasm endears you to all you come in contact with you'll be accepted into a variety of situations - some of which you should have nothing to do with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec 21). Good news is speculative things could still go either way. This is where your faith will be tested. Keep up the positive intentions, and move forward, even when you're in convincingly skeptical company.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Profound happenings can take place. Separate yourself from your body, your actions and your beliefs. There's a soul inside you that can outshine all the limitations of this world, if you stop resisting,

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll find it difficult to keep your commitments, especially those you make to yourself. The written word

is the single most effective tool you can wield now. Write what you will do, and you're 50 percent more likely to do it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you don't know where you're

going, it's hard to know when you've arrived there. It's not too late to declare your destination or change it. A bold and public action will help you center yourself on a single goal.

Creators Syndicate

Glamorous hotels put on the ritz

Where did the word "ritzy" come from?

"Ritzy" comes from the Ritz hotels, named for their founder, Cesar Ritz. Cesar Ritz opened the first Ritz hotels in London and Paris in 1905. He had built his renutation in the luxury hotel business with positions in fashionable European hotels and resorts where he cultivated connections with the old money of Europe and served as a guide and mentor to the nouveaux riches of America. After managing the new Savoy Hotel in London, Ritz opened his own luxury hotels, and his son carried on the tradition by opening Ritz hotels around the world. The fame of the hotels quickly

made "the Ritz" a well-known symbol of opulence. F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1922 titled one of his stories about the Jazz Age "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz. Even today, people will disparage their own humble residences with comparisons to the Ritz. "To put on the ritz" came to mean "to indulge in ostentatious display the meaning that Irving Berlin celebrated in his 1929 musical tribute to glitz, "Puttin' on the Ritz

The derivative adjective "ritzy was first recorded in 1920.

This column was prepared by the This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Put affair in past and do best to work it out with husband

Dear Abby: I am a 36-year-old married woman. "Vern" and I have been married

for 10 years and are childless by

We have had our share of problems, but for the most part, I've learned to put them Dear Abby

in perspective. started flirting with a guy at work.

"Jason" is married

with two small children. At first the flirtation seemed harmless. The next thing I knew, we were having a hot-and-heavy affair. I have never been so

drawn to any man. became convinced that feeling this way about Jason meant I was no longer in love with Vern, so I left my hus-

Vern was devastated. I didn't tell him there was someone else. I said I was unhappy, which was the truth. I got my own place, and the affair continued until Jason's wife became suspicious. Then Jason started pulling back He said he was worried about not being able to see his kids. Finally, Jason told me he

thought it would be a good idea for me to go back to Vern. I begged him to change his mind and said I'd be his other woman

for as long as it takes I was so in love. He made me laugh, listened to me and made me feel special. He was everyng my husband was I am now back with Vern. I care for him, but the spark is

long gone. He goes out of his way to make things right for me, but he no longer trusts me because he's heard

marriage to work, but all I do is think about

— Confused in Alaska

Dear Confused: While you're thinking about Jason, please remembe that although he was amusing and a good listener, and the chemistry was strong, he was also a liar and a cheater. He may have made you feel

special, but when the chips were down, his wife and children were more important to him. Your husband wasn't horn

vesterday. He still loves you. Vern took you back in spite of the rumors. You now have a second chance — but only if you

reorganize your priorities. If you want your marriage to work, you and Vern will have to admit that you had issues before you moved out, and seek professional counseling to work on

Dear Abby: I have known

"Jerry" for four years. We met through my ex-boyfriend, "Paul." We have been dating for about nine months

Paul and I have a child togeth-er; our daughter, "Elise," just turned 5. My ex and I rarely speak to each other, and when we do, it's only about Elise.

I love Jerry with all my heart and would never cheat on him. How can I convince him that I am no longer interested in Paul? Whenever we have an argument, he says, "Go back to Paul maybe he can make you happy.'
Would I be out of line if I told Jerry, "If you don't like the idea of me talking to my child's father, there's the door, and don't

let it hit you on your way out" We don't even live together, and he's trying to control me. How do vou think it would be if we started living together - which we have discussed? Angry in Pennsylvania
 Dear Angry: Jerry is insecure.
Since you love him, do not give

him an ultimatum. Because vou share a child with Paul, there will always be contact of some sort. If Jerry is going to build a future with you, he will have to accent that fact. Do not live with him until he is mature enough to

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Girl must let son of mother's boyfriend down extra gently

Dear Annie: I'm a

16-year-old girl who started at a new high school in September. I've made lots of friends and even met some boys I'm getting to know. My problem is what happened last summer.

My mother is seriously dating a man who has two children, ages 15 and 16. We've known him for six years. His 16-year-old daughter and I are so close, we feel like sisters. The

problem is his 15-year-old son, "Max." In June, Max wrote me a letter and told me that for the past two years he has been in love with me. I felt the same way, and on several occasions, I took advantage of our

feelings for each other.

However, this happened before I met some great guys at my new school I don't feel the same way about

Max anymore, but he is still crazy about me. I know letting our relationship progress was wrong, and I'm going to have to live with what I did, but what should I do to help him get over me so we can still be friends? Avoiding him is not an option

- Roston Student Dear Boston: It might help to

explain to Max that he may one day be your stepbrother and you don't feel right about maintaining a romantic relationship. Tell him you think it's best if you care for each other only as brother and sister. He will be hearthroken and angry at first, but chances are, he will soon meet girls at

school who interest him.

Stay friendly, but do

not encourage his crush

by flirting or alluding to

last summer's activities.

Treat him like a broth-

er, and hopefully, he

will accept it

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: "Richard" and I have dated for five years. He is kind, gentle, honest and makes me laugh. We

became engaged on my 50th birthday, and shortly after, Richard moved in with me.

For the most part, things are great, but Richard is the biggest packrat and slob I have ever met. I am a very neat person, but I am not obsessive about it. However

er, we are combining two households and need to downsize Richard refuses to discard anything, including old magazines, too-small or outdated clothing. worn-out shoes and endless amounts of junk. He has boxes full of old pens, loose nails, you

name it. On top of the hoarding, he leaves papers, food, cups and clothing all over

I have begged Richard to clean up and de-clutter. I have silently cleaned up after him, hoping to be a role model. I have boxed things to give to charity, but he becomes angry. I have suggested a storage center. Nothing helps,

I love Richard and want to spend my life with him. But this relationship won't last if Richard doesn't figure out that he can't keep everything he has owned since childhood. This is driving me crazy. What can I do?

_ I.A Fiancee

Dear L.A.: Richard is obsessive-compulsive, and unless he is willing to admit he has a problem and seek help, nothing will change.

Urge him to contact the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation (ocfoundation.org) at 676 State St New Haven CT 06511 If he refuses to do this for the sake of your relationship, you might want to reconsider living together - now, or in the future

Annie's Mailhox is written by Kathy Annie's Mailbox is written by Katny Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blyd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

RELIGION



Above: High school student Kristina Kaczmarek works with Czech children last year during Club Beyond's trip to Czech Republic. Right: Anthony Placeres removes dirt from holes dug at the work site of a playground the teenage ministry group built last year during the service trip.



Teen ministry group goes above, beyond

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Stripes

FRIEDBERG, Germany -For a few hundred American teens in Europe, spring break won't be the typical hiatus from homework

About 500 students, adult volunteers and community leaders from more than 20 U.S. military bases in Europe plan to travel to Slovakia next month as part of a Christian outreach program. They'll build playgrounds and renovate buildings on behalf of Club Beyond, a ministry for teenagers. 'It's work," said Tanya Raedeke, a volunteer for the ministry

that covers the 284th Base Sup port Battalion, headquartered in Giessen, Germany, "They are giving up their spring break to help others who

are less fortunate." Like a lot of other chapters, donations to support the effort are

crucial At a 284th BSB community

briefing in nearby Friedberg on

Wednesday, Raedeke's husband, Robert, was drumming up sup port for a fund-raising effort next Sunday that'll help defer some of the costs. The fund-raiser is slated for March 13 from 2:30-4 p.m. at

This will be the fifth year the Giessen/Friedberg chapter has held a "fund-raising dessert" for the spring break project, said Robert Raedeke, the community director for the Club Beyond 284th BSB chapter. The money also goes toward a summer trip to Camp Darby, Italy. Last year's effort raised more than \$9,000. Club Beyond is a Christian

ministry for junior high and high school students interested in spreading the word and celebratthe Alpine Club on Giessen Depot. ing God.

Sixteen Giessen High School students and four adult chaperones plan to make the trip to Slovakia, scheduled for April 8-16. The group will join students and adult supervisors from others communities in a few villages in the north-central region of the

country. A year ago the ministry traveled to the Czech Republic. Tanya Raedeke said the objec-

tive is to build playgrounds, reno-vate buildings and share Christian beliefs. "For a lot of them," Raedeke said, referring to Slovakian

youth, "this will be the first time they've heard of Jesus Christ.' Anyone wanting more informa

tion about Club Beyond should contact their local chaplain's office

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Seventh Day Slumber shows softer side of rock

Today's praise

BY BRIAN BOWERS Stars and Stripes

Seventh Day Slumber likes its rock hard However, the band turned to one of its less-aggressive tracks for its initial single from the new CD "Once Upon a Shattered

The move appears to have worked because the rock bal-lad "Caroline" is climbing R&R's Christian Rock radio chart. The

song portrays God forgiving someone you might call the "prodigal daughter." It describes how "yesterday is gone and everything that made you cry has fallen to the ground. I'm here to bring you home

It's one of many songs that draws on the experience of the band members, notably frontman Joseph Rojas, who once had a \$400 a day cocaine habit

The disc is packed with powerful portraits of a brokenness that leads to redemntion and hope, "Broken Me" is about failed dreams but looks ahead to a different future. "Shattered" asks, "Will you rescue me and take me from this shattered life?" One of the most powerful songs on the disc is "Back in Time." a prayer for a relationship with God that states, "I want to breathe hope instead of choking. I want to feel the fire deep inside."

Other songs are more praise-oriented, such as "Believe," a deep and meaningful statement of faith, and "Oceans from the Rain," which conveys amazement at God's power, consisten-

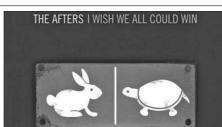
cy and love. Seventh Day Slumber's first release on the BEC label is

rock solid On the Web: www.seventhdayslumber.

Another band that went mellow for an initial release is the Afters, a pop/rock band that will spend the spring opening for MercyMe and Jeremy Camp.

The first single from "I Wish We All Could Win" is "You," a praise ballad that's planted at No. 11 on R&R's Christian airplay chart.

These four guys from Texas offer everything a good pop/rock band should catchy riffs, good hooks and heart-felt lyrics. What sets their disc apart from recent releases by similar bands is the creativity they display as they explore their themes.



INO PECOPOS

Like fellow Christian rockers Seventh Day Slumber, rock/pop band the Afters decided to play it soft for their first single release from the new album "I Wish We All Could Win."

For example, "You" uses simple and effective terms to convey the nature of a relationship with God. "The Way You Are" covers similar ground but with power chords and in-your-face metaphors - "It's like atomic bombs in reverse/As if a glass could contain the sea, that's the way you are in me

And "Someday," which gives the disc its title, opens as an acoustic ballad before exploding with energy as it expresses the wish that everyone could find the right The Afters got their big break when they

caught the attention of Bart Millard frontman for MercyMe, and became the first band to sign with his new Simple Records label. From all appearances, they deserved their shot and are making the most of it.

On the Web: www.theafters.com.

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

F-mail Brian Bowers at-

YOUR MONEY



notos by The Washington Post

Army Capt. Lonnie Moore, right, works out with 1st Lt. Stephen Rice during a physical therapy workout at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Both men were wounded in Iraq. Moore, of Wichita, Kan., says he has already received a few job offers, but will remain at Walter Reed through March.

Wanted: Injured vets to fill job vacancies

BY ELLEN MCCARTHY

The Washington Post

Army Capt. Lonnie Moore lost his right leg and — he thought — his career last April when his convoy was ambushed on the road to Ramadi, in central Iraq. The injury led to some dark days at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington as Moore, 29, began his recuperation and contemplated life outside the military.

Within months, however, he had received job offers from a munitions company, an information technology firm and the Department of Veterans Affairs. And that's without sending out a résumé.

"People tend to seek us out," Moore said of veterans, particularly those who have been injured. "They know we'll be an asset to their companies and that we're not going to let our injuries stand in the way. ... Everybody I've known that's gotten out, they're not having a hard time finding jobs."

Through broad initiatives and individual requests, corporations have been actively recruiting veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, turning military hospitals like Walter Reed into de facto hiring centers.

Job offers aren't being handed out carter blanche, and companies say tlatet and fit are still the priorities. But executives seeking out wounded troops say many of the skills acquired in the military are applicable in the private sector — particularly within companies that serve the government. A soldier who has led a platoon into war is probably capable of leading a unit at our contracting in a boom, soldiers' security clearances and knowledge are also highly valued.

"They've got to be able to talk the language. And you can't teach a person that

Recovering troops in high demand among contractors

language — it's a language you can only learn by being part of that culture," said Paul Evancoe, director of military operations at FNH USA Inc., a McLean, Va., weapons manufacturer with about 350 employees in the United States. The company is among those interested in hiring Moore.

The quest to seek an injured vet was both company-driven and personal, said Evancoe, who received a Purple Heart after being shot in Vietnam. Many FNH employees are veterans, so the company's atmosphere and values largely mirror that of the military, he added.

"If you take a guy and immerse him back into that culture ... it's going to be very positive. It's going to help the healing," Evancoe said. "It's not like I can hire every single guy, but when I have a job, I'm going to search out a veteran."

The Labor Department does not have statiscs on job placement rates of veterans disabled in Afghanistan or Iraq. However, in 2003, the most recent statistics available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans had an unemployment rate of 4.5 percent, compared with 5.9 percent for nonveterans.

The same study found that 9 percent of veterans suffered from a service-related disability; their unemployment rate was comparable to that of their noninjured peers.

Jeannie Lehowicz, a vocational counse-



"Veterans are getting good jobs right now," says Army Capt. Lonnie Moore, who lost his leg last year. Sgt. Robert Faulk, a physical therapy assistant, helps with his recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

lor stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, said she has a steady stream of inquiries from executives and recruiters sometimes dozens a week, and typically more than the 50 to 75 servicemembers she is working with at any given time.

One day the call might be from a giant defense contractor from Bethesda, Md., and the next, a small biomedical firm from Montana, she said.

"It's overwhelming. You want to respond and say 'Oh here's this guy I've got for you,' but that's not always the case," Lehowicz said

The organizers of a career fair at Walter Reed in December expected a dozen or so companies to participate. By the night of the fair, more than 30 companies, including BAE Systems PLC, Science Applications International Corp. and Oracle Corp, had set up booths to pass out brochures and collect names.

"The equipment that we work on and maintain for the military is the same as they would have used," said Eugene C. Renzi, president of defense systems at ManTech International Corp., a Pairfax, Va, government contractor that sent recruiters to the career fair. "So when they get out of the military, we can put them right to work and utilize the skills they already have."

Joe Davis, spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said outreach efforts among government contractors is partly driven by executives with military backgrounds. There is a de facto alumn inetwork, he said, and a collective memory of the way disabled veterans were treated after previous conflicts, particularly Vietnesses.

SEE VETERANS ON PAGE 33

Use credit to boost score

Q: My mother pays for most large purchases with cash. She wrote checks to buy three cars in the last year — two luxury cars and a sport utility vehicle yet according to lenders, she has bad credit.

Why do people like her, who use credit cards only for emergencies and then pay them off at the end of the month, get penalized when they want to buy something big like a house?

A: Your mother may not have bad credit. What she may have is a credit history that's too

thin to generate a three-digit credit score. The FICO scoring formula requires a con sumer to have at least one account on her credit report that's been open a minimum of six months and at least one account to be undated in the previous six months

This requirement can make it tough for young people and immigrants to establish credit, because many lenders won't open an account if the applicant's credit history is too thin to generate a credit score.

But, as you've seen, the requirement also can hamper the well-off who choose not to use credit regularly. Paying for everything with cash might be smart for them financially, but they may find themselves unable to get

loans at decent rates when they need to borrow The fix for this problem is fairly simple: Your mom would just need to use her credit cards more regularly. She doesn't have to carry a balance; the FICO credit scoring formula doesn't distinguish hetween balances that are paid off and those that are carried month to month.

All she would have to do is make a few small charges each month and pay them off promptly. She should avoid "maxing out" her cards or even using more than about 30 percent of her credit limit, and she should pay the bill on time

O: I recently received compensation for serving as executor for a deceased neighbor's estate. The amount was just under \$10,000. I am 72, single,

with few assets. What is the best way to invest this money so I don't wind up paying a chunk in taxes? In the retirement community where I live, this is a common question, because many residents serve

as executors for their neighbors, and all have very modest income. Money Talk

A: The income you receive as an executor is taxable as income in the year you receive it, and there's not much you can do about that. What you're probably asking is how to minimize future taxes on any gains this money might generate.

One of the easiest choices, if you really don't want to pay any taxes, is to simply invest in a tax-free money market account. These accounts typically invest in insured municipal bonds with little risk of loss, and your money is accessible whenever you need it.

What you probably don't want to do is invest in an annuity. These are often pushed on seniors who want tax deferral, but annuities usually come with relatively high expenses and surrender charges that could seriously eat into your stash if you needed to withdraw money

Before you do anything, though, you might want to have a chat with a tay professional about the implications of your investment.

12 Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Morey Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Caryon BldW., No. 238, Studio City, CA. 91604, or via her Web Site, www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to queries.

Veterans: Job hunt comes easy for many injured

VETERANS, FROM PAGE 32

"Who runs the country now? It's the Vietnam era and they vowed never again and so you got all the corporations, every nonprofit, all the associations and lobby arms doing everything they can," for this generation, Davis said.

Contractors like ManTech have another incentive to recruit veterans, regardless of disability: Many have security clearances that are in short supply in the work force, but necessary for an increasing number of government projects.

"And even if you're missing a limb, that doesn't mean you're incapable of supporting the military through a company," said Edward F. Lawton, head of the Washington area chapter of the American Military Retirees Association.

Brian Garvey, an Army Cap met his future employer at the Walter Reed career fair The platoon leader and father

of two young girls was deployed to Iraq last March and for months worked at the Baghdad airport, processing human resources files for troops stationed throughout that country

On Sept. 18, Garvey's unit was assigned to show a contractor a damaged fence on a highway bridge between the airport and the heavily guarded Green Zone when a suicide homber detonated an explosive — killing two of the crew and wounding 13.

Three days later Garvey was at Walter Reed, recovering from a series of surgeries to repair his hand and remove dozens of pieces of shrapnel from his skin.

PAGE 33

"I would say a lot of the time was spent thinking 'What am I going to do? What is the best avenue for my family?" Garvey recalled of his four-month stay at the hospital.

Garvey stopped by the career fair, hoping to pick up a few business cards and some ideas. Like most of the 150 servicemembers crammed into the hall, Garvey was without a résumé or firm career goals.

He grabbed brochures from such big contractors as Northrop Grumman Corp. and Raytheon Co., but spent the longest time talking to a representative from Alliant Techsystems Inc., a Minnesota company that makes weapon systems and munitions. He filled out a card with his basic information and three days later got an e-mail from ATK, asking for a phone interview.

Soon he'll become a program manager at ATK, acting as a liaison between the company's engineers and its primary client the U.S. military.

"Mentally it does me a lot of good, knowing that I'm not out there searching frantically for a job," said Garvey. "It gives me a sense of security. I know what my future has to offer.'



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Engineered Sup Sys General Dynamics	1.60	17	105.44	+.54	-5.6 +.8	Putnam F	unds A: GrinA p	19.62	+.01	+1.1
General Electric	.88	22	35.55	05	-2.6	Fidelity Ir	west: A Mgr	16.14		4
Halliburton	.50		44.08	+.34	+12.3	Frank/Ter	np Frnk A: SMCpGrA	34.13	04	-1
Harris Corp.	.48	29	68.73	13	+11.2	AIM Inves	timents A: Const p west: USBI	22.71 11.07	01	6
Allied Signal	.83	23	38.00	+.23	+7.3	Fidelity in	west: USBI west: Ovrsea	36.00	01	+1.8
L-3 Communications	.50	21	72.05	09	-1.6		dvisor T: GrOopT	30.35	01	6
Lockbeed Martin	1.00	21	59.69	04	+7.5	Fidelity A	dvisor T: Eropp i	28.75	01	+1.8
NorthrpG s	.92	18	53,44	16	-1.7	Freedow !	unds S: GroineS	21.94	+.01	+.2
Raytheon	.80	41	37.99	11	-2.2	Didnam E	unds A: GlbEaty o	8.59	+.01	+1.7
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	59.74	52	+20.6		tments A: ChartA o	13.02	+.02	+1.6
Segua Corp.	-	34	57.11	-1.09	-6.6	AlM Irrens	aments A: WeingA p	12.86	04	-1.4
Texas Instruments	.10	25	26.58	39	+8.0	Merrill Ly	nch I: BalCapl	26.89		+.7
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	78.79	56	+6.8	Scudder I	unds S: Intl FdS	45.33	09	+2.4
United Technologies	1.76	18	99.71	+.18	-3.5	Fidelity A	dvisor T: OvrseaT	18.04		+1.6
						Lord Abbr	ett A: DevGtA p	15.66	01	-1.5
						Scudder I	unds S: Income S	12.94		+.3

EXCHANGE RATES

Japanese yen (March 5)	102.00
Euro costs (March 4)	\$1.3486
Dollar buys (March 4)	€0.7415
British nound (March 4)	\$1.96
British pound (March 4)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British nound	\$1,9077
British pound Canada (Dollar)	1.2440
Denmark (Krone)	5.6777
Egypt (Round)	5.7025
Egypt (Pound)\$1.310	18/0.7629
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	184.47
Iceland (Krona)	59.03
Israel (Shekel)	4.3405
Janan (Yen)	105.31
Japan (Yen) Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.2686
Philippines (Peso)	54.81
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6280
Singapore (Dollar) South Korea (Won)	1007.46
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1807
Thailand (Baht)	38.45
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045
(Military exchange rates ar	e those
available to customers at milita	ry hank
ing facilities in the country of	ssuance

for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom For nonlocal currency exchange rates check with your local military bank facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate5.5
Discount rate 3.5
Federal funds market rate2.5
3-month bill2.7
30-year bond4.7
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Student loan rates drop

NEW YORK - If you have federal Stafford student loans. time is running out to consolidate them at a low interest rate. Consolidation fuses multiple loans into one, locking in inter-

est rates, lowering payments and extending the repayment period. At 3.375 percent, interest

rates for students past their grace period are the lowest in the program's 40-year history May 2004 graduates who consoli dated within their six-month grace period were eligible for rates as low as 2.875 percent.

Indications are that the low rates won't last, says Mark Brenner, president of College Loan Corporation, a student-loan provider. "Now is your time," he

While it's generally wise to hold off on consolidating until you can get the best rate. Brenner recommends that people with unconsolidated loans take a look at their loan balances before rates change on July 1. "They'll never be able to recapture today's low rate," he says.

Time is particularly of the essence for May 2005 grads, who must act quickly to snag the low rate, Brenner says. "They have a very short window of opportu-nity," he says. "It could be as short as eight weeks."

If you choose to consolidate be sure to check out the lender first. Some offer further discounts on your interest rate if you sign up for automatic payments debited from your bank account and if you make payments on time for a stated peri-



+2.8







EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 30s. Monday lows in the lower to mid 30s. Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly

cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Monday lows in the lower 30s. Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s. Monday lows in the mid teens. France: Partly cloudy. In the north, highs in the lower 30s with Monday lows in the mid 20s. In the south.

highs in the lower 50s with Monday lows in the lower 30s. Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated snowshower cloudy with isolated snowsnowers.
Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s.
Monday lows in the lower to mid 20s.
Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to
cloudy with isolated snowshowers.

which supper 30 in the very 50. Monday loves in the upper teens to lower 20s. Monday loves in the upper teens to lower 20s. Highs in the mid 30s. Monday loves in the June 10 in 10 Highs in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

lower 30s to lower 40s. Monday lows in the mid teens to mid 20s. Norway: Partly cloudy, Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Monday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s. Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to mid 50s. In the south, Monday 20s to mid 30s. In the south, Monday 20s to mid 30s. In the south, Monday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s. Turkey: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers. In the north and inland, highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s with Monday lows in the 30s. In the south and west, highs in the lower to mid 60s with Monday lows in the upper 30s to upper 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

83/60	SUN & MOON						
Hyderabad 95/68	Sunrise (B Sunrise (F Sunset (B Sunset (Fr	rankfurt) anhdadi	Today 6:25AM 6:59AM 6:04PM 6:16PM	Tomorrow 6:24AM 6:57AM 6:05PM 6:18PM			
Bombay • 89/74	New moon 10 Mar 05	First qtr. 17 Mar 05	Full moon 25 Mar 05	Last qtr. 2 Apr 05			

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

78/57

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Bridgeport Brownsville Burlington,Vt. Caribou,Maine Casper Charleston,S.C. Charleston,W.C. Charleston,W.C. Charletton,V.C. Charletton,V.C. Charletton,V.C. Chicago Chicago Chicago Cincinnati	41 72 35 31 20 54 67 54 60 61 57 48 52	38 38 31 39	Snow Rain Snow Snow Snow Oir Oir PCidy PCidy PCidy PCidy PCidy PCidy	Fargo Flagstaff Flort Fort Smith Fort Wayne Fosso Goodland Grand Junction Grand Rapids Green Bay Greensboro, N.C.	30 47 44 38 72 46 70 68 57 40 59 42 58	22 24 31 49 37 47 28 30 35 29 32 38	Stow City City City POsty P	Lo Lui Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Mi Mi Mi Mi Mc Mc

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· Application Integrator

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Sunday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Ford Championship at boral, 3rd round (dlo),
ship at boral, 3rd round (dlo),
croata at U.S., doubles (dlo),
AFN-Allantic, 1 p.m.—Motor racing: Busch
Centre Sports (dlo),
Cleip of the Color las at Houston.

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball:
Teams TBD,
AFN-Pacific, 8 p.m.—Auto racing: IndyCar
Toyota-Indy 300.

AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at
Sacramento. AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.—College basketball: Duke at North Carolina. AFN-Radio, 10 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at Sacra-

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, midnight—College basket-lali: Women's Pac-10 game tbd. AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m.—NBA: Miami at

APN-sports, 1:59 a.m.—Nisc. Miami at APN-shafter, 2 a.m.—Oellege basketball: Wake Forest at N.C. State Wake Forest Sports, 9 a.m.—Pin (opt) ball: Aren APN-sports, 1 p.m.—Golf-for of Champion-ship at Doral, final round (old). Davis Cup. Create at U.S. A. reverse single Champion (Old). APN-sports, 8 p.m. seabealli Spring training, Chicago Lobs Vs. Texas.

All times are Central European Time; did in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring Training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

W L Pct. 2 0 1.000 1 0 1.000 Boston Toronto Baltimore Cleveland Kansas City 1.00 .50 .50 Kansas City Los Angele Tampa Bay Texas Chicago New York .500 .500 .500 .250 .000. NATIONAL LEAGUE 1.000 1.000 1.000 1.000 Chicago Milwaukee Pittsburgh Washington Cincinnati Colorado Houston New York San Franci Florida .500 Florida Los Angeles San Diego Philadelphia 0 NOTE: Split-squad games count standings; games against non-major teams do not.

N.Y. Mets 7, St. Louis 5 Toronto 5, Minnesota 2 Atlanta 3, L.A. Dodgers 2 Houston 5, Cleveland 4 Florida 3, Paltimore 1 ouston 5, Cieveianu 4 lorida 3, Baltimore 1 etroit 3, Philadelphia 0 incinnati 4, Tampa Bay 1 litsburgh 9, N.Y. Yankees 6 oston (Ss) 17, Northeastern 0, 7 innings Potsouring 1, Nr., refineeds 0, 0, 1 innings Fereas 11, Kanpas City 13
LA. Angels 6, San Diego 4, Milwaudec (sa), Sectile 1
LA. Angels 6, San Diego 4, Milwaudec (sa), Sectile 1
Chicago Cubs 8, San Francisco 3
Boston Issa 1, Boston College 5, 7 Innings 1
Boston Issa 1, Boston College 5, 7 Innings 1
Lampa 8, San Louis 1, San Lampa 1, San Lampa 8, San Louis 1
Lampa Bay vs. Toronto at Duedelin, Fla.
Florida vs. St. Louis at Lupter, Fla.
Lampa Bay vs. Saltimore at Fort Lauder

dale, Fla. Cleveland vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla. Minnesota (ss) vs. Pittsburgh at Braden-ton, Fla.

ton, Fla.

Boston (ss) vs. Minnesota (ss) at Fort Myers, Fla.

L.A. Dodgers vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, ila. Oakland vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix Kansas City vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. Colorado vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe, Ariz. Seattle vs. San Diego (ss) at Peoria, Ariz. Chicago White Sox vs. Arizona at Tucson,

Ariz.
San Francisco (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.

San Diego (ss) vs. San Francisco (ss) at Scottsdale, Ariz. ie, Ariz. (ss) vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota. Fla.

College basketball

Friday's men's scores EAST

EAST Brown 80, Columbia 55 Penn 64, Dartmouth 37 Princeton 66, Harvard 44 Wheaton, Mass. 85, W. New England 62 Yale 79, Cornell 63

SOUTH
Hampton 66, Norfolk St. 60, OT
Lane 76, Kentucky St. 59
Lynn 83, Florida Tech 65
Northwestern St. 103, McNeese St. 73
Southern Poly St. 95, Barry 82,
St. Leo 72, Florida Southern 68
MoWEST
Minn,-Mankato M. Webraska

St. Leo Z. Horina Bouriern be Minn-Mankato Z., Nebraska-Omaha 52 SW Baptist 71, NW Missouri St. 65 SW Baptist 71, NW Missouri St. 65 SW Baptist 71, NW Missouri St. 65 Texas-Arlington 78, Nichollis St. 66 Texas-San Antonio 81, Texas 75 Utah St. 65, Idala W. 185 J. 185

First Round
Stony Brook 66, Hartford 46
UMBC 78, New Hampshire 73
Atlantic Sun Conference
Semifinals
Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
UCF 66, Belmont 61 Delaware 76, Towson 56 William & Mary 68, James Madison 54 ECAC Metro

CACK Metro Semifinals
Richard Stockton 63, Rutgers-Newark 56
ECAC New England Tournament
Semifinals
Brockport 94, Skidmore 61
Rhode Island Coll. 81, Colby-Sawyer 79
ECAC Upstate Tournament
Semifinals
Kean 65, Jahman 51

Kean 65, Lehman 61 Oswego St. 85, Hobart 55 Frontier Confe

Frontier Conference Semifinals wis-Clark St. 75, Westminster, Utah 68 ntana-Western 108, Carroll, Mont. 91 Great Lakes Conference Semifinals

Semifinals
Findlay 76, Michigan Tech 57
Wayne, Mich, 68, Ferris St. 63
Gulf South Confere
Quarterfinals
Delta St. 84, Harding 77
Horizon League
Second Round

Second Round
Detroit 61, Wright St. 48
Loyola of Chicago 87, Ill.-Chicago 81, OT
Lone Star Conference
Semifinals
W. Texas A&M 80, Midwestern St. 75
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
First Round

W. Texas AAM 69, Midwestern St. 75

The St. 19 Control of the St.

Arkansas St. 84, North Texas 76
Tal. International 69, South Alabama 57
Middle Tennessee 77, New Mexico St. 63
Sunshine State Conference
Eckerd 63, Rollins 51
West Coast Conference
First Round
Pepperdine 91 First Round
West Wirginia Conference
West Wirginia Conference
Semifinals
Semifinals
Semifinals
Semifinals
Semifinals
Model of Proceeding 91
Model of Proceeding 92
Model of Proceeding 91
Model of Proceeding 92
Model of Proceeding 93
Model of Proceeding 94
Model of Proceeding

Wheeling Jesuit 75, Alderson-Broaddus 72, OT

Friday's women's scores

EAST Brown 66, Columbia 56 Dartmouth 64, Penn 49 Harvard 71, Princeton 49 Yale 81, Cornell 57

Yale 81, Cornell 57 SOUTH Anderson, S.C. 67, Erskine 4: Belmont 62, Florida Atlantic Coppin St. 85, Morgan St. 70 Freed-Hardeman 76, Cumb 43 12 59

Frééd-Hardeman /b, Cumberiano, 70, OT Hampton 69, Norfolk St. 58 McNeese St. 77, Northwestern St. 72 North Georgia 86, Lee 74 UCF 54, Lipscomb 51

MIDWEST
McKendree 67, Missouri Baptist 58
Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 82, Ind.-Pur.-Ft.

Vayne 60

SOUTHWEST
Louislana-Monroe 66, Stephen F.Austin 64
N. Colorado 49, Texas-Pan American 44
Sam Houston St. 53, SE Louislana 51
Texas St. 61, Texas-San Antonio 58, OT
Texas-Arlington 75, Nicholls St. 30
FAR WEST
FAR WEST

Cacc Semifinals
Holy Family 84, N.J. Tech 73
Sciences, Pa. 78, Bloomfield 80
Conference USA
Quarterfinals
DePaul 78, Memphis 55
Houston 76, Charlotte 73, OT
Louisville 99, Marquette 54
TCU 65, South Florida 57
TCU 65, South Florida 57

South Florida 57 ECAC Metro Tourn Semifinals rham 71, Baruch 51

NYU 80, SUNY-Farmingdale 70 ECAC New England Tourr Semifinals Brandels 83 Norwich 70

ECA. New England I Outrianners Semifinals Semifinals Fitchburg St. 71 Mod Heldyoke 62 Eastern College 19 Heldyoke 62 Eastern College 19 Heldyoke 62 Moravian 79, Pitt. Greensburg 63 Frontier Conference Semifinals Carroll, Mont. 72, Rocky Mountain 67 Montana-Western 72, Lewis-Clark St. 58

ar Conference Tou Semifinals Angelo St. 74, Abilene Christian 61 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

Canisius 60, Manhattan 5 Fairfield 66, Siena 65, OT Niagara 69, Rider 46 North Central Conference Semifinals North Dakota 84, St. Cloud St. 82 South Dakota 84, Augustana, S.D. 83 Northeast 10 Conference Semifinals Bentley 56, S. Connecticut 50 Ohio Valley, Conference

Bentley 56, S. Connecticut 50 Ohio Valley Conference Semifinals E. Kentucky 62, Jacksonville St. 60 SE Missouri 71, Tennessee Tech 68 Pac-10 Conference First Round

Galfornia 70, Washington St. 52
Washington St. 10, Washington St. 52
Washington St. 10, Togon St. 68
Washington St. 10, Togon St. 68
Washington St. 60, Degedict 57
Palie 78, Tusker 50, Degedict 57
Palie 78, Tusker 50, Degedict 57
Palie 78, Tusker 50, Degedict 57
First Round
Lubbock Christian 50, Oklahoma Baptist 42
Oklahoma Christian 85, John Brown 79

Southeastern Confe Quarterfinals Georgia 87, Mississippi 65 LSU 60, Alabama 59 Tennessee 64 J 60, Alabama 59
nessee 64, Auburn 54
nderbilt 79, Arkansas 60
Southern Conference
Semifinals

Georgia Southern 73, ETSU 71, OT W. Carolina 69, Davidson 68 Southern States Athletic Conference Scouthern States Athletic Conference Brewton Parker 79, Reinhardt 61 Sun Belt Conference First Round 84 First Round
Ark.-Little Rock 50, Denver 48
Fla. International 48, New Mexico St.
Middle Tennessee, 73, New Orleans 31
West Virginia Conference
Semifinal, W.Va. 42
Wheeling Jesuit 63, West Liberty 39

Tennis

Dubai Duty Free Women's Onen

Saturday
At Dubai Tennis Stadium
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Purse: \$1 million (Tier II)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles

Singles Final Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia-Montenegro, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

3-6, 6-4.

Friday
Singles
Semifinals
Lindsay Davenport (1), United States, def.
Patty Schryder (8), Switzerland, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1.
Jelena Jankovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def.
Segena Williams (2), United States, 6-0, 4-3,

Davis Cup

Davis Cup

Works Description

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At Sydney, Australia

Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, det. Alexander

Peya, Austria, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 19-4,

Spreaks 2, Spain O Striples
Kard Bace, Souskis, Get, Feliciano Lopez,
Souls, Selve, Souskis, Get, Feliciano Lopez,
Finance J, Sweden 1,
Finance J, Sweden 1,
Souskis Manna, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve,
Souskis Manna, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve,
Souskis Manna, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve,
Souskis Manna, Selve, Selve, Selve,
Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve, Selve,
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Selve, S

Peter Wessels, Netherlands, def. Stanislas Wawrinka, Switzerland, 7-6 (12), 6-7 (4), 7-6

(7), 6-4 (a), 6-7 (a), 7-7 (b), 7-7 (c), 7-7 (c)

Golf

Ford Championship at Doral

Friday oral Golf Resort & Spa, Blue Co Miami Purse: \$5.5 million Yardage: 7,266; Par: 72 Second Round

Phil Mickelson Billy Andrade José Maria Olazabal Billy Mayfair Franklin Langham Vijay Singh Tiger Woods Craig Parry Stewart Cink Joey Snyder III David Toms Tim Clark 65-70-135 69-66-135 70-65-135 66-69-135 69-66-135 Tim Clark Hunter Mahan Brian Davis James Driscoll Jim Furyk Retief Gnosno Shigeki Maruyama Harrison Frazar Sergio Garcia Sergio Garc Paul Casey Scott Hend 70-67 — 68-69 — 70-67 — Dudley Hart Angel Cabrera Bo Van Pelt Robert Allenby Jose Coceres 70-67-137 68-69-137 70-67-137 69-68-137 Jose Coceres Zach Johnson Danny Briggs Joe Ogilvie John Riegger Erik Compton Greg Owen Kevin Na John Senden 70-68-138 69-69-138 68-70-138 68-70-138 John Senges Jesper Parni Scott Hoch Glen Hnatiu Iav William 70-68-138 68-71-139 70-69-139 71-68-139 68-71-139 70-69-139 Mark Cald Skip Kend Paul Azin D.A. Points Rick Heat! Rich Beem 70-69-139 72-67-139 71-68-139 68-71-139 70-69-139 Bart Bryant Michael Allen Padraig Harrington Jason Allred Steve Elkington Kenny Perry Jeff Sluman 69-70-139 71-68-139 68-71-139 69-70-139 68-72-140 Jeff Slum

Bernhard Langer Sean O'Hair Hidemichi Tanaka

Hidemichi Tana Brian Bateman Brendan Jones Nick Price Mark Brooks Justin Rose Brett Quigley Daniel Chopra Tag Ridings Ryuji Imada Kevin Stadler Nick Watney

68-72-140

70-70-140 73-67-140 72-68-140 73-67-140 71-69-140

70-71 - 141 71-70 - 141 64-77 - 141 71-70 - 141

70-71-141 70-71-141 69-72-141 73-68-141 70-71-141

70-71-141 71-70-141

72-68-71-21 ca 69-70-72-21

71-70-71-212

Marco Dawsor. Todd Hamilton Woody Austin

Dubai Desert Classic

Saturday At Emirates Golf Club's Mailis Course Dubai, United Arab Emirates Purse: \$2.2 million Yardage: 7,264; Par: 72 Third Round

David Howell, England Soren Kjeldsen, Denmark Nick Dougherty, England Paul Sheehan, Australia Maarten Lafeber, Netherl Philip Archer, England Toru Taniguchi, Japan 67-71-69-207 70-70-68-208 69-70-69-208 70-68-70-208 70-70-69-209 72-66-71-209 70-68-71-209 Paul Broadhurst, England Barry Lane, England Paul McGinley, Ireland Thomas Bjorn, Denmark Ben Curtis, United States Zhang Lian-wei, China Jyoti Randhawa, India Charl Schwartzel, South

Sam Osborne, England Sandy Lyle, Scotland Ian Woosnam, Wales

MasterCard Classic

At Bosque Real Country Club Hukquilucan, Mexico Purse: \$1.2 million Yardage: 6,932; Par: 72 (36-36) Partial First Round

Hee-Won Han Hee-Won Han Young Jo Moira Dunn Giulia Sergas Brandie Burton Patricia Meunie Gloria Park Sae-Hee Son Carin Koch er-Lehoud nnika Sorenstam ichelle Estill ristie Kerr 36-34-70 36-34-70 36-34-70 36-34-70 35-36-71 37-34-71 36-35-71 34-37-71 Ammaccapane Young Moon in Nilsmark Leta Lindley Kim Saiki Lorena Ochoa Stephanie Arricau Birdie Kim 33-38-71 36-35-71

Deals

Friday's transactions

Friday's transactions
SAFFALL

MATIMOSE functions Language to the many state of the saffact of t

National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Named Will

Clark as a special assistant to the team's general partnership.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association BOSTON CELTICS—Re-signed G Gary Pay-CHICAGO BULLS—Re-signed G Gary Pay-ton.
CHICAGO BULLS—Placed F Luol Dengo n the injured list. Activated G Frank Williams from the injured list.
DETROIT PISTONS—Signed C Elden Camp-bell. Placed G Horace Jenkins on the injured list

list.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Named Stephen
Zito vice president of arena operations.

PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Activated C

PUNILAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Activated C
Ha Seung Jin from the injured list. Free Williams on the injured list. Activated F Pape
Sow from the injured list. Activated F Pape
Sow from the injured list.
WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Placed F Jarvist
Women's National Basketball Association
HOUSTON COMETS—Re-signed G-F Janeth
Arcain.
FOUTBALL
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HOUSTON COMEID - NE-DIGITAL STREET OF THE STREET OF T (elly Holcomb on a four-year contract. Signed OL Mike Gandy. CAROLINA PANTHERS—Re-signed WR Karl Hankton.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed P Kyle Richardson to one-year contract and CB Gary Baxter to a six-year contract. Named Ben Coates tight ends coach.

GREEN RAY PACKERS—Released DR Micha-

GNEEN BAY PACKERS—Refeased to minute Hawthorne. Houston Texans—Signed CB Jason Bell und FB Moran Nortis. March March March Periodered a con-ract offer to C Brett Romberg. Signed DT fartin Chase and QB Nate Hybi. DIPHINS—Signed S Travares

MIAM DOLPHINS—Signed S Travares
NEW YORK GAMTS—Signed OT Kareem
McKerple, Named Dave DeGupilerino assisstant offensive line coach, David Merrity demental offensive game of the coach, David Merrity deMental offensive gamelity control coach.
NEW YORK JETS—Agreed to terms with as
Signed Di Lance Legree. Named Sam Gash
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Old Lance Legree. Named Sam Gash
Mill Deleniah Trotter on a five-year conPHILIDGELPHIA EAGLES—Agreed to terms
With L8 Jereniah Trotter on a five-year con-

with LB Jeterman Froces of the Contract.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Signed QB Drew
Brees to one-year contract. Re-signed S
Brees to one-year contract. Re-signed S
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Released S Damien
Robinson and LB Anthony Simmons.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed LB JetTien Tauler.

naine Taylor.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

MI.S.—Named Alfonso Mondelo director of olayer programs.

COLLEGE

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE—Reprinanted litah men's baskethall players. An

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE—Repri-manded Utah men's basketbail players, An-drew Bogut, Richard Chaney, Marc Jackson and BYU'S Austin Ainge for violating the con-ference's sportsmanship policy. MICHIGAN STATE—Named Tim Hundley secondary coach MONTCLAIR STATE—Named Karin Harvey omen's volleyball coach.

OREGON STATE—Named Mike Cavanaugh
ffensive line coach.

TEMPLE—Named Willie Slater offensive co-

orginator.
TUSCULUM—Announced the resignation
of Suzanne McBride, women's basketball

Coles dealt to Jets: Skins get WR Moss

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. - The Washington Redskins finally traded disgruntled receiver Laveranues Coles back to the New York Jets on Saturday and got the speedy Santana Moss in return

Moss' agent, Drew Rosenhaus said in a phone interview the deal was contingent on both players passing physicals. Moss had his physical scheduled for Monday at Redskins Park. A source within the league, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, also said Coles got the new deal he wanted, which held up the trade for the last week.

Terms of the deal weren't available. A message left for Coles' agent, Roosevelt Barnes, was not immediately returned.

Coles met with coach Joe Gibbs twice after the season to state his desire to leave the Redskins, following an unsatisfying year in the team's conservative offense.

He had 90 catches for 950 vards for a career-low 10.6 vards a catch and only one touchdown in the Redskins' 6-10 season. The year before, under pass-oriented coach Steve Spurrier. Coles had 82 receptions for 1.204 vards and six touchdowns

Coles emerged as a favorite of Chad Pennington in 2002, but left the Jets as a restricted free agent after the season, when the team declined to match the Redskins' seven-year, \$35 million offer - including a \$13 million bonus. He was critical of the Jets and coach Herman Edwards after he left. though it appears the organization is willing to look past that.

As for Moss, the game-breaking receiver had a breakout year in 2003, with 1.105 vards and 10 touchdowns. But his productivity slipped in 2004, when he had 45 catches for 838 vards and five touchdowns while battling through a sore hamstring. He also was critical of his role in the Jets conservative offense, wondering why he didn't get the ball more.

Moss is entering the final year of his contract, and Rosenhaus expects to have the receiver signed to a new deal shortly after the trade is completed.

Brees signs with Chargers

After breakout season, QB gets one-year, \$8M deal

BY BERNIE WILSON The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO - Drew Brees was in an \$8 million mood on Fri-

The quarterback signed a one-year contract that more than quadruples his pay from last year, when he came off the scrap heap to lead the San Diego Chargers back to the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons.

The Chargers put the "fran chise" tag on Brees on Feb. 17 meaning he'll get \$8,078,000 next year or the average of the NFL's five highest-paid quarterbacks in 2004.

Brees returned from a vacation in Australia late Thursday night and signed the deal as soon as he could on Friday.

"I was ready and eager to get the thing official," said Brees, who made \$1.56 million in base nav last year

Brees doesn't seem offended that the Chargers aren't interested in giving him a long-term deal - for now, anyway - or that coach Marty Schottenheimer has refused to ordain him as the starter for next year, meaning he'll have to compete with Philip Rivers in training

"Of course I want to be here, and of course I want a long-term deal, but the main thing is. I wanted to be here, I wanted to be a part of this," he said, "I just think we can do something spe-

Brees was all but cast aside OT McKenzie goes from Jets to Giants

last offseason, when the Chargers were coming off an NFL-worst 4-12 record. Brees vas an easy scapegoat after throwing 15 interceptions and just 11 touchdown passes, getting benched for five straight games and being yanked from

General manager A.J. Smith declared that the Chargers need-ed to "upgrade" at quarterback, then swung a draft-day deal that brought highly touted prospect Philip Rivers to town

But Rivers held out for half of training camp and Brees kept his job. He threw 27 touchdown passes and just seven interceptions as the Chargers won the AFC West. Brees was voted Comeback Player of the Year and went to the Pro Rowl

Agassi falls to Ljubicic in return to Davis Cup

The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. - Andre Agassi stumbled in his return to Davis Cup play, and Andy Roddick stepped up to square things for

Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic beat Agassi in straight sets in Friday's opening match. Roddick bounced back after a first-set loss to defeat Mario Ancic 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 in the second and final match of the

Ljubicic downed Agassi 6-3, 7-6 (7-0), 6-3 in the match of Croatia's No. 1 player against the U.S. team's No. 2.

The first round was to resume on Saturday, with twins Mike and Bob Bryan scheduled to face Liubicic and Ancic. Roddick will play Ljubicic in

Sunday's first match, with Agassi slated to go against Ancic in the fifth and final match of the first-round competition.

The loss was only the sixth in 36 Davis Cup matches for Agassi, who has played on three championship teams.

The 25-year-old Liubicic, off to a fine start on the tour this year, took control of the match with his serves, often in the mid 130-mph range and as high as 141 mph.

On Saturday, Slovakia eliminated defending champion Spain, taking an insurmountable 3-0 after Saturday's doubles match to advance to the quarterfi-

Maier wins men's downhill on Lillehammer Olympic course

KVITFJELL, Norway - Hermann Maier won a World Cup

Sports briefs

downhill on Lillehammer's Olympic course Saturday, while Bode Miller finished fourth and extended his overall lead

Maier, one of the greatest downhillers of all time but a non-winner in Norway since 2001, cov-ered the 3,035-meter Olympiabakken in 1 minute, 46.10 sec-Austrian countryman Mario Scheiber was runner-up for the second straight downhill. finishing 0.13 seconds behind.

Maier's victory was his first in the downhill this season. He has 49 wins in the downhill, super giant slalom and giant slalom, one short of second-place Alberto Tomba of Italy on the career list. Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden tops the list with 86.

Ambrosi Hoffmann of Switzerland took third, 0.31 off Majer's pace. It was his best result of the

Miller, coming off two disappointing gate races last weekend in Slovenia in which he scored no noints was 0.65 back as he improved his chances of becoming the first American since Phil Mahre in 1983 to win the overall

Miller led his closest rival, Benjamin Raich of Austria, by 31 points going into this weekend's races. Raich, whose strength is in gate races, only managed 12th, 1.11 seconds behind.

Miller leads Raich by 57 points 1,303 to 1,246 - going into Sunday's super-G. Maier is third with 1,066. Five races remain, and each victory is worth 100 points.

The Associated Press Kareem McKenzie is moving NFL roundup but he won't be changing his stadi-

las on Wednesday.

filled his hole in the secondary by

signing Baltimore Ravens corner

back Gary Baxter to a six-year

contract. Anthony Henry, who led

the Browns with four intercep-

tions last season, signed with Dal-

Crennel's already shaky of-

fense added another question mark when quarterback Kelly

Holcomb accepted a four-year

deal from the Buffalo Bills. He

opted to back up J.P. Losman rath-

er than vie for the starting job in

Cleveland, leaving the Browns

with Luke McCown and Josh Har-

Holcomb was initially expected

to re-sign with the Browns after

the team released starter Jeff Gar-

cia. But talks with Cleveland

broke down this week when Cren-

nel suggested he had other plans.

tive on Friday. Quarterback Kurt

Warner was in Chicago talking to

the Bears. Defensive lineman

Lance Legree, primarily a part-time player, signed with the

New York also formally an

nounced the signing of Derrick

Blaylock, the ex-Kansas City Chief who will back up Curtis

Martin at running back, and

Jets

A counte of ex-Giants were ac-

ris at the quarterback position.

The former New York Jets right tackle will play his games at the Meadowlands next season as a member of the New York Giants after signing a \$37.75 million, seven-year contract on Fri-

um address

McKenzie's deal included a \$12.5 million signing bonus and topped the \$36 million fellow tackle Jonas Jennings got from San Francisco on Thursday.

"Kareem is a powerful and durable player and will improve an important position to us. He adds to an offensive line that is young and signed." Giants General Manager Ernie Accorsi said.

The signing continued a very profitable offseason for a position that has rarely been considered glamorous. After McKenzie's deal and the contracts Jennings, Mike Wahle, Marco Rivera and Ben Hamilton signed on Thursday. NFL teams spent over \$134 million on offensive linemen in the first three days of the free-agent signing period.

The NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles spent their dollars on defense. The Eagles re-signed Pro Rowl middle linebacker Jeres miah Trotter to a \$15 million. five-year contract.

Trotter's contract includes a \$4 million signing bonus. After two lackluster years in Washington, Trotter returned to Philly last season and helped the Eagles lead the NFC in fewest points allowed at 16.3 per game.

Trotter started just seven games for the NFC champs, but his peers still voted him to a third Pro Bowl.

"We retained a good player who really wanted to be here and we really wanted to have here, said Eagles president Joe Ban-

New Cleveland Browns coach Romeo Crennel, whose New England Patriots shut down Philadelphia in the Super Bowl, quickly signed Denver tight end Jeb Putzier to an offer sheet worth \$12.5 million. The Broncos have a week to match it

In other signings: ■ Tackle Oliver Ross signed a

five-year contract with the Arizo-Cardinals. The 6-foot-5. 322-pound lineman started 16 regular-season games and both of Pittsburgh's playoff games last

■ Cleveland signed punter Kyle Richardson, who was with Cincinnati last season.

■ Buffalo signed free agent Mike Gandy to help bolster its offensive line. Drafted by Chicago in the third round in 2001, he started five games at right guard last season and 14 at left tackle in 2003

■ Miami signed free agent safe-Travares Tillman to help rebuild its depleted secondary. He had five tackles in six games with the Carolina Panthers last season before being sidelined by a bro-

■ Tampa Bay re-signed veteran free agent tight end Dave Moore.

He will return for his 12th season with the Buccaneers after making three catches for 17 yards in 15 games last season. He also is the team's long snapper. Moore ranks third in Bucs history with 161 games played

Arizona re-signed running back Damien Anderson and released running back Larry Ned.

ADELTA HITACHI



New York Mets' Pedro Martinez pitches during the first inning against the St. Louis Cardinals on Friday at Roger Dean Stadium, in Jupiter, Fla. Martinez struck out three and gave up three hits in three innings.

Sosa, Martinez fitting right

The Associated Press

Yes, Sammy Sosa's hop is just as joyful in a Baltimore Orioles uniform and Pedro Martinez's fastball is just as sizzling in New York Mets colors

The two superstars, along with Mark Mulder, Carl Pavano, Derek Lowe and Jon Lieber, all made their debuts with new teams Friday.

Sosa homered and had two hits in Baltimore's 3-1 loss to the Flori-da Marlins at Fort Lauderdale. Fla. After sending a drive over the left-field wall in the seventh inning, Sosa inaugurated the post-homer routine he perfected with the Chicago Cubs, hopping in the batter's box then touching his heart and pointing skyward upon reaching home.

Sosa, playing DH because of a slight groin strain, came to the Orioles last month in a trade with the Cubs, who all but gave away the slugger after he wore out his welcome in the Windy City.

"Those guys love me already," he said. "I'm such a perfect fit here, I'm so happy to be here in a new house. It's incredible, let me tell you the truth. I feel like I've been here forever.'

At Jupiter, Fla., Martinez picked up right where he left off last season. In three innings, the 33-year-old right-hander allowed three hits, struck out three and was credited with the win - a 7-5

Spring training

victory over the St. Louis Cardi-- in his first outing since leaving Boston for a \$53 million. four-year contract with the Mets. Martinez threw 60 pitches, but

new Mets manager Willie Randolnh had no problem letting Martinez go that long this early in spring

"We're not going to get crazy about pitch counts," Randolph

"We don't worry about that because he's in great shape. You see him work. He's not going to break. He'll be fine. Mulder, on the other hand, was

wild from the start and lasted just one inning for St. Louis. He walked four and gave up a two-run single to Cliff Floyd in his first appearance since he was traded by Oakland on Dec. 18.

"It's not that big a deal. I'm not that concerned with results in spring training. I just want to make good pitches," Mulder said. "Those are things you get out of the way now. As long as you're healthy and making good pitches. that to me is the only thing that matters "

At Kissimmee, Fla., Roger Clemens kicked off his 22nd major league season with two scoreless innings for the Houston Astros in a 5-4 victory over the Cleveland

Indians

"I'm just glad to get everything under way," said Clemens, his right shoulder, elbow and ankle eavily wrapped in ice. "I felt re-

Bradenton, Fla., Pavano gave up three hits in two scoreless innings in his first start since signing as a free agent with New York, He struck out two. Ben Grieve, trying to win a job on the Pittsburgh bench, went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBIs.

the trip to Lakeland on Saturday to play his first road game.

immee, Lowe pitched three score-less innings in his Los Angeles only a single to Andruw Jones.

Dodgers outfielder J.D. Drew got a chance to face his former team. Booed lustily in his two at-bats by the pro-Atlanta crowd, he struck out both times.

Tigers 3, Phillies 0: At Lakeratano hit a two-run hom over two innings.

ally good out there. In other games: Pirates 9, Yankees 6: At

Jason Giambi is slated to make

Braves 3, Dodgers 2: At Kissdebut. Lowe, whose last appearance was in Boston's World Series-clinching victory, gave up

land, Fla., Lieber made his first appearance with Philadelphia and gave up a hit, walked one and struck out a batter in three innings. Detroit prospect Tony Giar-Craig Monroe had an RBI double Nate Robertson struck out three

Canseco agrees to testify; others face subpoena BY RONALD BLUM 'I have no idea what they are

about

something that

wasn't even

illegal at the

time. ... Man.

it's not like

this is the

Olympics...

We're

entertainers.

Barry Bonds

San Francisco Giants

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. - Jose Canseco is ready to testify. Relucant players and executives might be forced to appear before a congressional committee.

Canseco, the MVP-turned-bestselling author, had no qualms about testifying at a March 17 hearing on steroids in baseball. "We'll be there on the 16th and

17th," Canseco's agent, Doug Ames, said Friday. The House Government Reform Committee is prepared to

subpoena witness es, a person famil-44 You're talking iar with its deliberations said on

condition of anonymity. Jason Giambi, Canseco's former Oakland team-mate, said it was

highly unlikely he would testify before the com-Boston mittee. nitcher Schilling was unsure whether he would appear and whether the hearing would be productive

"It depends on what it's for,' Schilling said in Fort Myers. mean, if this is a

McCarthy witch hunt all over again, then no. But, again, I don't know any of the specifics around what it entails and what's going on.

Mark McGwire, who combined with Canseco to form the Bash Brothers on the World Series champion Athletics, also was undecided

"We're still evaluating." McGwire spokesman Marc Altieri said. "I can't say one way or the other.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig and executive vice presi-dent Sandy Alderson had not made their decisions, spokesman Rich Levin said, and San Diego General Manager Kevin Towers declined comment.

The players' association had not yet decided whether union head Donald Fehr would testify or what recommendation it would give to the invited players, according to union general counsel Michael Weiner.

"We think it's a little early to talk about who's confirmed their attendance," said David Marin, a spokesman for Rep. Tom Davis, the Virginia Republican who chairs the committee.

At the Yankees' training camp, Giambi said he had a brief conversation with his agent. Arn Tellem. about the invitation.

trying to do," Giambi said. "I'm just concentrating on playing In December, the San Fran-

cisco Chronicle reported that Giambi told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he had used steroids. Barry Bonds, who was not invited by the committee, told the grand jury he used a substance that prosecutors believe contained steroids, the paper said.

Giambi has declined to discuss steroids publicly, but issued a gen-eral apology last month to teammates and fans. Bonds testily side

> stepped questions when he arrived

at spring training. "The fact that the questions are surrounding him certainly doesn't dilute the fact that's he a Hall of Famer before all the questions were asked," Yankees manager Joe Torre said Bonds

"That's the thing I think is going to be lost in this whole thing - everybody is curious about the last year or two years or whatever, and it's going to demolish his

In an informal conversation with reporters from the Oakland Tribune and ESPN on Thursday. Bonds said performance-enhancing substances are not a big deal.

You're talking about something that wasn't even illegal at the time." Bonds said. "All this stuff about supplements, protein shakes whatever. Man. it's not like this is the Olympics, ... We're entertainers. If I can't go out there and somebody pays \$60 for a ticket, and I'm not in the lineup, who's getting cheated? Not me.

So we all make mistakes. We all do things. We need to turn the page. We need to forget about the past and let us play the game. We're entertainers. Let us enter-

Baltimore's Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro were invited to testify, as was Frank Thomas of the Chicago White Sox

'March 17th is my wife's birthday. That should tell you right there what my answer is," Palmeiro said at Baltimore's camp in Fort Lauderdale. "Honestly, I don't really have anything to say on the subject."

Sosa isn't ready to respond. "I don't know about that yet. I have to call my agent," he said. AP Sports Writers David Ginsburg in Fort Lauderdale, Howard Ulman in Fort Myers and Bernie Wilson in San Diego contributed to this report



Andretti, Penske lead IRL into 10th season

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

Helio Castroneves' fence-climb ing skills got a little rusty.

The two-time Indianapolis 500 champion performed his scaling victory celebration only once last vear. And that didn't come until the IndyCar Series season finale, when "Spiderman" won for the first time in 19 races.

"It was hard, all season long waiting to win a race. ... It was a great relief," he said. "I don't want to wait that long this year.

Castroneves won't have to if Team Penske can pick up with the momentum it built at the end of last season.

Not only did Castroneves win the finale at Texas, he finished the season with an IRL-record four straight poles. The Penske team obviously was figuring out car setups with the smaller 3 0 engines the series switched to after the Indianapolis 500, and are unchanged this year.

"It was a learning curve, and we learned a lot with that situa-

tion," Castroneves said. Sam Hornish Jr started on the front row alongside his Penske

2005 IRL schedule

la. April 30 — Indy Japan 300, Suzuka May 29 — Indianapolis 500 June 11 — Bombardier 500, Fort Worth,

June 11 — Bombardier 500, Fort Worth, Texas June 25 — SunTrust Indy Challenge, Richmond, Va. July 3 — Argent Mortgage Indy 300, Kansas City, Kan. July 16 — Firestone Indy 200, Gladev-ille, Tenn.

le, Tenn.
July 24 — West Allis, Wis.
July 31 — Michigan Indy 400, Brooklyn
Aug. 14 — Bluegrass 300, Sparta, Ky.
Aug. 21 — Honda Indy 225, Fountain,

Aug. 28 — TBA, Sonoma, Calif. Sept. 11 — Delphi Indy 300, Joliet, Ill. Sept. 25 — Watkins Glen Indy Gra Yix, N.Y. rix, N.Y. Oct. 16 — Toyota Indy 400, Fontana,

teammate twice during that four-race stretch and rolled off from the No. 3 spot another time.

Penske had bookend victories last year, with two-time IRL champion Hornish winning his debut race with his new team just ahead of Castroneves - in the season opener at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Andretti Green Racing's four-driver team dominated in between, winning eight of the other 14 races with 36 top-five finishes.

Tony Kanaan became the first driver in a major racing series to finish every lap - 3,305 in 16 races - and won the title

Teammate Dan Wheldon was second. Dario Franchitti and Bryan Herta, the other Andretti Green drivers, were sixth and

"Well, we set the standard for sure," Kanaan said. "Right now, yeah, they're definitely looking at us, and they respect us. But you know, we're also looking ... we're looking for Penske, we're looking for Rahal.

be will at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday for the start of the IRL's 10th season

Hornish has won three of the four IRL races on the track. The 300-mile race is where Kanaan had his worst 2004 finish eighth in the opener before 15 straight top fives that included three victories.

This will be the IRL's longest season with 17 races - including its first road-course events.

The IRL will break from its all-oval format in the third race this season, on a temporary road course through downtown St. Petersburg. Fla. The series also will

run on road courses in Sonoma. Calif., and Watkins Glen, N.Y., later in the year.

Former driving champion Michael Andretti, who co-owns the team with Kim Green, got an IRL title in just his second season as an owner

Roger Penske won 11 national open-wheel championships over three decades before moving from CART, but the car owner goes into his fourth IndyCar season without a title. Buddy Rice finished third in points and won the Indianapolis 500 for the team owned by former driver Bobby Rahal and late night talk show host David Letterman.

There are 22 drivers on 13 teams this season.

IRL founder Tony George is even a team owner now, having acquired the assets of Kelley Racing this offseason.

'Why? Because I believe in this series. I believe in the opportuni-ty it represents," George said. "As the offseason wound down it became obvious that we needed a car count. We were going need to keep all that equipment that Tom had for sale in the system. There were a lot of teams looking at acquiring bits and pieces of it. But I

Michael Andretti, above, made a successful transition from driver to team owner. Andretti Green's Tony Kanaan won the IRL title last season, and his three teammates all finished in the top 10.

felt that the best opportunity was to try and keep it together for someone."

Ed Carpenter, 23-year-old stepson, will drive the car for Vision Racing LLC. George has promised his ownership will not influence decisions and rulings by race officials.

Danica Patrick moves from the Toyota Atlantic Series to become the third woman in the IndyCar Series. She's part of Rahal Letterman's three-car team with Rice and Vitor Meira.

Men's conference basketball tournament scoreboard

America East Conference

At Binghamton University Events Cent Vestal, N.Y. Md.-Baltimore County 78, N. Hampshire 73 Stony Brook 66, Hartford 46

Solvy Brook 66, Nathroft of Amus-bury Brook 68, Nathroft of Amus-phanish 18, Nathroft of Market 19, Nathroft of Market 19, Nathroft of Northeastern vs. Story Brook 18, Osternith 18, Nathroft of North Market 19, Nathroft of Nathroft

Atlantic Sun Conference

At The Curb Event Center Nashville, Tenn. First Round Thursday, March 3 Gardner-Webb 64, Troy 62 Central Florida 81, Mercer 68

Belmont 67, Georgia State of Jacksonville 68, Lipscomb 64
Semifinals
Friday, March 4
Gardner-Webb 77, Jacksonville 76
Central Florida 65, Belmont 61
Championship

Big Sky Conference

First Round Saturday, March 5 Eastern Washington at Montar Weber State at Sacramento Sta

At Memorial Coliseur Portland, Ore. Semifinals Tuesday, March 8

Montana State vs. Ingentifiers round winner Portland State vs. lower-seeded first-round winner Championship March 9

Big South Conference

First Round Tuesday, March 1

Tuesday, March 1
Charleston Southern 68, Liberty 60
High Point 98, N.C.-Asheville 93, 07
Winthrop 74, Coastal Carolina 62
Birmingham-Southern 69, Radford 40
Semifinals
Thursday, March 3
Charleston Southern 54, High Point 55
Winthrop 78, Birmingham-Southern 64
Championship
Saturday, March 5
Charleston Southern 64
Championship
Saturday, March 5
Charleston Southern 44
Winthrop

Colonial Athletic Association

At Richmond Coliseum Richmond, Va. First Round Friday, March 4 & Mary 68, James Madison 54

William & Mary 68, James Madisor Delaware 76, Towson 55 Quarterfinals Saturday, March 5 Old Dominion vs. William & Mary Drexel vs. Hofstra Virginia Commonwealth vs. Delaw N.C.-Wilmington vs. George Masor Semifinals

Sunday, March 6 on-William & Mary winner vs.

Drexel-Hofstra winner
VCU-Delaware winner vs. North Carolina-Wilmington-George Mason winner
Championship
Monday, March 7
Semifinal winners

Horizon League

First Round Tuesday, March 1 e 61, Butler 57 col, Butler 57 Chicago 78, Youngstown State 75 ilcago 84, Cleveland State 65 At U.S. Cellular Arena Milwauke

Milwaukee

Sellar Arena
Milwaukee

Second Round

Arena
Milwauker

Second Round

Arena
Milwauker

Betroit 61. Wright State 48

Loyola of Chicago entimois-chi

Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Detroit

Wisconsin-Green Bay vs. Detroit

Wisconsin-Milwaukee vs. Loyola

At Higher-Seeded Tean

Milwaukela

3 ois-Chicago 81

of Chicago At Higher-Seeded Tei Milwaukee Tuesday, March 8

> Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

At HSBC Arena Buffalo, N.Y. First Round Friday, March 4 anisius 62, Marist 60 tanhattan 88, Loyola, Md. 67 Second Round Saturday, March 5 b, Peter's vs. Jona

St. Peter's vs. Iona Rider vs. Canisius Fairfield vs. Manhattan Sunday, March 6 Nagara vs. St. Peter Systa winner Nagara vs. St. Peter Systa winner Nagara vs. St. Peter Systa winner Nagara vs. Fairfield-Manhat-

Semifinal w

Mid-Continent Conference

At John Q. Hammons Arena Tulsa, Okla. First Round Saturday, March 5 Oral Roberts vs. Southern Utah Missouri-Kansas City vs. Qakland, Mich. Sunday, March 6
Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis vs. Western Illinois Valparaiso vs. Chicago State

Semifinals
Monday, March 7
Oral Roberts-Southern Utah winner vs.
IUPU-Indianapolis-Western Illinois winner
UMKC-Oakland winner vs. Valparaiso-Chi-cago State winner
Tuesday, March 8
Tuesday, March 8

Missouri Valley Conference

At Savvis Center
St. Louis
First Round
Friday, March 4
ate 63, Bradley 61
vansville 68
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 5
llowa vs. Voluthaes
Louis vs. Indiana St.

Illinois vs. Indiana Iowa vs. South

Northern Iowa Vs. Southern State Wichila State vs. Drabe Creighton vs. Blinois Istale Sentinats Sentinats Sentinats Sentinats Sunday, March & Winner vs. Northern Ioward Wichila State Shafe Winner Wichila State Shafe Winner Wichila State Shafe Winner Wichila State Shafe Winner State Winner Shafe Winner S

Northeast Conference

First Round
Thursday, March 3
Monmouth, N.J. 54, Central Conn. State 53
Fairleigh Dickinson 78, St. Francis, N.Y. 60
Wagner 69, Robert Morris 65
Long Island Univ. 76, St. Francis, Pa. 67
Semifinals

Sunday, March 6 at Monmouth, N.J. and Univ. at Fairleigh Dickinson Championship Wednesday, March 9

Ohio Valley Conference

First Round
Tuesday, March 1
Tennessee Tech 72, Eastern Illinois 68
Austin Peay 71, Samford 60
Eastern Kentucky 74, Tennessee State
Southeast Missouri State 61, Murray S
At The Gaylord Entertainment Cent
Nashville, Tenn. ssee State 68

Semifinals
Friday, March 4

Istin Peay 67, Tennessee Tech 61
Istern Ky. 69, Southeast Missouri St. 52

Championship

Championship Saturday, March 5 Austin Peav vs. Eastern Kentuc

Patriot League First Round Friday, March 4 At The Hart Cente

Worcester, Mass Lehigh 77, Colgate 60 Holy Cross 76, Army 42 At The Sojka Pavil Lewisburg, Pa. American 85, Navy 83, OT Bucknell 70, Lafayette 34

Sunday, March 6 At The Hart Center Worcester, Mass. Holy Cross vs. Lehigh At The Sojka Pavilion Lewisburg, Pa.

s. American Bucknell-Lafa Championship
At Higher Seeded Team
Friday, March 11

Southern Conference At McKenzie Arena Chattanooga, Tenn. First Round Wednesday, March 2

First Round
Wednesday, March 2
Elon 64, Wofford 58
Georgia Southern 69, Western Carolina 57
East Tennessee State 87, Furman 84
Appalachian State 68, The Citadel 59

Quarterfinals nursday, March 3 This was taken a Davidson 67, Elon 53 N.C.-Greensbor 073, Georgia Southern 71, Cattanooga 77, East Tenhessee State 70 Appalachian 51 Semilinah harieston 60 Semilinah Narieston 60 Semilinah Narieston 60 Semilinah harieston 60 Semilinah harieston 60 Semilinah 61 Semi

Sun Belt Conference

At Denton, Texas
First Round
Friday, March 4
At Kitty Winter Magee Arena
Florida International 60, South Alaba
At The Super Pit
Arkansas State 84, North Texas 76 otate 64, NORTH TEXAS 76 nn. St. 77, New Mexico State 63 At The Super Pit Denton, Texas

Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 5
Arkansas-Little Rock vs. Florida Interna-

UALR-Fia. International winner vs. La.-Lafayette-Middle Tenn. winner Championship Tuesday, March 8 Semifinal winners

West Coast Conference

At The Leavey Center Santa Clara, Calif. First Round Friday, March 4 ine 91, Lovola Marymou cisco 65, Portland 60

Sah Francisco 65, Portland 60
Second Round
San Dilego vs. San Plandis, March 5
Santa Clara vs. San Francisco
Semifinals
Sunday, March 6
Gonzaga vs. San Dilego-Pepperdine winner
Saint Mary's, Calir. vs. Santa Clara-San Championship Monday, March 7 Semifinal winners

with 13 points

American ousts Navv in overtime

The Associated Press

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Matei Cresnik scored a career-high 30 points and Linas Lekavicius scored with 4.7 seconds left in overtime to help American beat Navy 85-83 in the quarterfinals of the Patriot League Tournament on Friday.

American (16-11) plays Bucknell, which beat Lafayette 70-34, on Sunday.

Navy's David Hooper made his fifth three-pointer with 34 seconds left to tie the score 83-83 before Lekavicius' before

game-winner. Navy freshman Corey Johnson made a three-pointer as time expired in regulation to tie the score 77-77 and force

overtime. Raimonda Petrauskas and Andre Ingram each had 13 points for American and Le-

kavicius added 12. Matt Fannin and Greg Sprink each scored 20 points for Navy (9-19) and Hooper added 17.

Holy Cross 76, Army 42: At Worcester, Mass., Kevin Hamilton scored 16 points as top-seeded Holy Cross pulled

away in the second half for a victory over Army in the first round of the Patriot League tournament. Holy Cross (23-5), which won its 15th straight game.

will play Lehigh at home in the semifinals on Sunday. Lehigh, the defending tournament champion, defeated Colgate 77-60 on Friday.

Matt Bell led Army (3-24)



Phoenix Suns coach Mike D'Antoni talks with point guard Steve Nash during a recent game. D'Antoni developed his philosophies on basketball and life during years of great success in Europe, and he has brought a welcome taste of Italy to soice up the American game.

D'Antoni brings Italian flavor to Arizona desert

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Mike D'Antoni is an easygoing mix of small-town West Virginia and cosmopolitan Milan, and he's brought a taste of Italy to spice up the bland NBA game

His audacious philosophy as coach of the Phoenix Suns: Let the players play — and the faster the better.

"It's the players' game," he said. "To me, a coach has a big role in it, and we can mess it up. I don't want to mess these guys up. I want to put them in the best light I can to perform at the highest level. They're the ones who are going to get us over the top."

Phoenix and its frenetic style have lit up the NBA this season, routinely ringing up triple-digit scores and keeping pace with San Antonio for the league's best record, an astonishing turnaround from last season's 29-53 team.

The Suns lured Steve Nash away from Dallas, and his talents mesh perfectly with D'Antoni's vision of how the game should be played.

"He finds that great balance between letting guys play their game and be confident," Nash said, "and at the same time being accountable. I think he's a terrific coach."

D'Antoni, 53, grew up in Mul-

44I like their rhythm of life [in Italy],

and their
passion for life,
and also what
they deem
important and
not important. I
think they have

Mike D'Antoni Phoenix Suns coach

lens, W.Va. the son of a longtime, highly successful basketball coach in a town that was crazy for the sport. He went on to Marshall

it right.

University, then played two-plus seasons for the Kansas City Kings and another year with the ABA's Spirits of St. Louis. He was released after two

games with San Antonio in 1977.

"That's when I went to Europe
and spent the next 20 years," he
said

D'Antoni's two decades in Italy, as a player and then a coach, shaped his view of basketball and the world. He learned the language, and he met his wife Laurel. an American fashion model.

As an intense point guard with an Italian-sounding name, he became a fan favorite for his hustling defense and playmaking ability.

"They talk about the heart and passion for the game," D'Antoni said. "That's their big thing. Their fans are like that and their society is like that a little bit. It just kind of fit what I was doing."

He played 13 seasons for Milan, leading the team to five Italian League titles, two Cups of Europe, two Cups of Italy, one Korac Cup and one Intercontinental Cup.

"They were the powerhouse," said Suns assistant Marc Iavaroni, who played against and briefly with D'Antoni in Italy.

"He was big, because they gave him dual citizenship and tried to get him on their national team. He was the head of the snake, like Steve is the head of the snake here."

Along the way, D'Antoni fell in love with Italy.

"I like their rhythm of life, and their passion for life," he said, "and also what they deem important and not important. I think they have it right."

The camaraderie among players was incredible, he said.

"After every game we went to a restaurant as a team — friends, family, everybody," D'Antoni said. "There were about 30 or 40 of us every night, and we'd sit there and we would eat for five or six hours. You drink wine, talk.

laugh and get to know everybody. That was the best experience. You develop bonds that are just incredible as you're winning and plaving."

When his playing career ended, D'Antoni turned to coaching, directing Benetton Treviso to the Cup of Europe and Cup of Italy in 1995 and the league title in 1996-97.

As much as he enjoyed Italy, the lure of the NBA was too

Friend Allan Bristow made him director of player personnel, then assistant coach in Denver. D'Antoni was promoted to head coach, but after going 14-36 in the lockout-shortened 1999 season, he was fired and general manager Dan Issel named himself coach.

D'Antoni went on to scout for San Antonio, then spent a season as an assistant to Mike Dunleavy in Portland. With his NBA situation uncertain, D'Antoni went back to Italy and coached Benetton to another Italian League title.

When Sums general manager Bryan Colangelo was looking for experienced assistants to work under Frank Johnson, D'Andun was one of the picks. Again, he couldn't resist the NBA, particularly with an organization with a good reputation, and in a city that appealed to him.

The Suns made the playoffs in D'Antoni's first year as an assistant, but faltered badly last season, and Johnson was fired. The job went to D'Antoni, who welcomed it but worried.

"It was more 'here we go again,' " he joked, "because I wanted to be here a long time, and once you get the head spot, your odds go up dramatically that you're not going to be here a long time."

Then came the big trade that sent Stephon Marbury and Penny Hardaway to the New York Knicks, clearing huge cap room but doorning the Suns to a miserable season. D'Antoni supported the move as necessary in the long term, and he was given a two-year contract extension at the end of the season.

The blockbuster deal cleared the way for signing Nash and Quintin Richardson, and D'Antoni had the players to go with the style he advocated. The results have been far beyond the coach's expectations.

"The first month we'd go in at halftime and we were thinking 'What are we going to tell the team?' I mean, we're playing so well it's almost like 'Man, I don't want to talk to them because I don't want to mess anything up.'"

Around the NBA, the Suns have become the symbol of a refreshing renaissance of fast-paced play. America West Arena is rocking again. The fans like the style, and so do the players. "It's nuts," D'Antoni said, "to

"It's nuts," D'Antoni said, "to say you have to walk it up and play ugly to win."

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Webber gets 'swagger' back in 76ers' win

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press PHILADELPHIA - Allen Iverson's big-

gest assist to Chris Webber didn't come on a no-look pass. It came in words of encouragement to Philly's slumping newcomer.

"Just get your swagger back," Webber said Iverson told him. "That's really what I did. It helped me out."

Webber had his best performance in his four games with Philadelphia, scoring 24 points and grabbing 12 rebounds, and Iverson added 31 points to lead the 76ers to a 98-89 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday night.

Samuel Dalembert had 15 points for the Sixers, who won for the second time in four games with Webber in the lineup.

Webber looked a little more like the All-Star the 76ers hoped they were getting in their blockbuster trade. While Philadel, phia remained 2½ games behind Boston in the Atlantic Division, Webber gave a glimpse of what he could contribute down the stretch

"I think every little bit helps your confidence," Webber said. "One day you're averaging a number that many people don't do in three categories and the next day you're worthless. And that's from myself, I don't even care what everyone else is saving."

Iverson, who had nine assists, knew Web-

ber was trying too hard to meet monstrous expectations

"I just know how tough it is on him," Iverson said. "He wants to play well so bad. He wants to fit in with the team. A lot of times when you're thinking about something like

that instead of just playing basketball, you struggle.' LeBron James scored 34 points and Zvdrunas Ilgauskas added 22 points and 11 re-

bounds for the suddenly-fading Cavaliers. Cleveland's five-game losing streak is its longest of the season. After leading the Central Division for much of the first half, the

Cavaliers are sliding back in the Eastern Conference race. The Cavaliers also dropped their seventh straight road game, losing their composure in the fourth quarter and allowing

the Sixers to coast in the last few minutes. The Cavaliers had a season-high 27 turnovers that led to 27 Philadelphia points. James wasn't too worried about the

"We lost nine games in a row last year and got out of it," he said. "We're not hanging our heads low. I've been through this

before and it's only my second season. James lost his cool after he thought he was fouled on a layup that pulled the Cavs to 83-80. He argued over the non-call and was hit with a technical foul

The Sixers pulled away from there. Kyle

Korver hit the free throw, and Webber hit long jumpers before and after a basket by Dalembert to give the 76ers a 10-point

After making his second jumper, Web-ber whirled around, smiled and pumped his fist. While his shooting percentage wasn't great - 11-for-28 - Webber made a few nifty plays that showed why the Sixers thought they made a steal of a deal to get him from Sacramento.

Webber struggled in his first three games with Philadelphia, shooting a comhined 17-for-54 and not immediately clicking with Iverson to provide the potent inside-outside game that was expected. Against the Cavs, Webber took a small step toward fitting in.

"There comes a point where you have to have self pride and say, 'I'm going to make this work and fit in,' "Webber said.

He missed seven of his 10 shots in the first quarter before shooting 50 percent in the second quarter and 60 percent in the third. In the third quarter, Webber's no-look pass in the lane allowed Dalembert to complete a three-point play. On Philly's next possession, Webber came right down and made a 20-footer to give the Sixers a seven-point lead.

"I thank the guys for being patient," Webher said

With more games like this one, it will be worth the wait.



Cleveland Cavaliers' Drew Gooden (90) and

Zydrunas Ilgauskas guard Philadelphia 76ers' Chris Webber (4) during the second half Friday. Webber scored 24 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Divis

/ision W L Pct 31 28 .525 28 30 .483 26 33 .441 24 34 .414 24 34 .414 21/5 6½ 6½ Pct .733 .561 .526 .214 .175 16 25 27 44 47 GR 10½ 12½ 30 32½ 10 4/ Central Division W L Pct 36 21 .632 31 26 .544 GB 5 6 7½ 12½

Western Conference

Division W L Pct 45 13 .776 38 19 .667 33 25 .569 33 25 .569 13 45 .224 12½ 13 18½ 21½ Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Lakers L.A. Clippers Golden State olden State 18 40 .3
Priday's games
Orlando 111, New York 89
Golden State 103, Washington 90
Philadelphia 98, Cleveland 89
Boston 104, Charlotte 84
Memphis 86, Toronto 75
New Orleans 92, Utah 85 New Orleans 92, Utah 85 Miami 104, Sacramento 83 Minnesota 103, Milwaukee 97 San Antonio 102, Chicago 99 Indiana 106, Portland 97 Seattle 95, Detroit 87

Seattle 95, Detroit 87
LA. Lakers 108, Dallas 103
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Washington at Charlotte
Orlando at New Jersey
Chicago at Milwaukee
Portland at Phoenix
Denver at LA. Clippers
Sunday's games
Dallas at Houston

Dallas at Houston Detroit at Sacramento Minnesota at Boston Utah at San Antonio Toronto at New Orleans Miami at Cleveland Golden State at New York Phonniy at Saattle Phoenix at Seattle
Indiana at L.A. Lakers
Monday's games
Philadelphia at Miami

Milwaukee at Chicago Toronto at Dallas Portland at Denver Memphis at L.A. Clippers

Magic 111, Knicks 89

NEW YORK — T.Thomas 2-4 1-1 5, Sweet-ney 1-52-4 4, K.Thomas 5-12 0-0 10, Crawford 3-10 0-0 9, Marbury 7-18 6-7 22, Rose 4-8 4-4 12, Hardaway 2-60-1 4, Jackson 1-1 0-0 2, Tay-tor 2-3 1-2 5, J.Williams 1-3 0-0 2, Ariza 3-5 6-12 12, Sundov 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 32-77 20-31

89, ORLANDO — HIII 11-17 6-9 29, Howard 6-12 8-9 20, Cato 6-7 2-2 14, Francis 5-10 3-4 13, Net- 50-51-510-61 11, Battle 2-4 0-04, Turkogla 11-4 4-11, Stevenson 0-3 1-2 1, Garrity 2-4 0-0 4, Totals 42-82 24-30 111. New York 25 27 14 23 89

Warriors 103, Wizards 90

76ers 98, Cavaliers 89

CLEVELAND — L.James 12-21 10-12 34, Tray-lor 3-61-47, Ilgauskas 8-19 6-6 22, Newble 0-1 0-0 0, McInnis 3-10 0-0 7, Gooden 3-5 3-3 9, Diop 0-0 0-0 0, Welsch 2-6 1-2 6, Snow 0-1 1-2

7), Philadelphia 25 (Iverson 9). Total Fouls— Cleveland 20, Philadelphia 21. Techni-cals—L.James, Philadelphia Defensive Three Second, Iverson. A—20,883. (20,444).

Celtics 104, Bobcats 84

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 3-8 4-6 10, Okafor 5-8 2-4 12, Brezec 3-8 1-2 7, Bogans 4-8 2-3 11 Knight 2-3 0-0 5, Hart 5-10 2-2 13, Smith 1-3 0-0 2, Ely 2-9 3-6 7, Alexander 3-7 1-2 9 Kapono 1-7 0-0 3, M.Allen 2-9 1-2 5, Totals

Charlotte 23 ib 25 ib= 84
Boston Three-Point Coals - Charlotte 21 ib 25 ib= 84
Boston Three-Point Coals - Charlotte E1 (AlexMarch Coals - Charlotte E1 (AlexKapono 1-4), Boston 6-14 (Banks 2-4, West
Kapono 1-4), Boston 1-5 (Banks 2-4, West
Kapono 1-4), Boston 1-6 (Banks 2-4, West
Kapono 1-6

Grizzlies 86, Raptors 75

TORONTO - DEPENSO 3-11.27, Bods 4-6.
TORONTO - DEPENSO 3-10.27, Bods 4-6.
TORONTO - DEPENSO 3-10.
TORONTO - DEPENSO 3-10.27, Bods 4-6.
TORONTO - DEPENSO 3-10.2

Memphis 25 IT 21 23—68 Three-Point Goals—Toronto 4-23 (Bonner 1-2, Roos 1-3, Marshall 1-5, Alston 1-5,

Hornets 92, Jazz 85

Hornets 92, Jazz 85

UTMAI - Harpfreide 5-15

Bill 15-27 18, Our 2-8-0-8, Elley 15-23, Sept. 18-15

Bill 15-27 18, Our 2-8-0-8, Elley 15-23, Sept. 18-15

Bill 15-27 18, Our 2-8-0-8, Elley 15-23, Sept. 18-15

Bill 15-27 18, Sep

Rebounds—Utah 58 (Borchardt 11), New Or-leans 57 (Andersen 11). Assists—Utah 11 (McLeod 3), New Orleans 24 (Dickau 7). Total Fouls—Utah 29, New Orleans 27. Techni-cals—Bell, Humphries. A—14,681. (17,200).

Heat 104, Kings 83

Three-Point Goals—Sacramento 2.12 Mob-ley 1-3, Stojakovic 1-7, Bibby 0-1, House 0-1), Mamil 8-12 Clances 5-5, Diones 2-4, Wade 1-2, Dooling 0-1), Fouled Out—None. Re-59 (Hasiem 13), Assists—Sacramento 19 59 (Hasiem 13), Assists—Sacramento 19 Fouls—Sacramento 18, Maira 10, Techni-pous—Sacramento 18, Maira 10, Techni-companiem 10, Maira 10, Techni-tom 10, Techni-companiem 10, Maira 10, Techni-companiem 10, Maira 10, Techni-companiem 10, Maira 10, Techni-tom 10, Techni-10, Techni-10, Techni-10, Techni-10, Techni-10, Techni-1

Timberwolves 103, Bucks 97

MILWAUKE — Mason 7-14 4-18, Smith 5-9 2-3 12. Gadzuric 7-10 2-2 16, Redd 8-2 10 24, AWIIIIams 19-20 1-1 21, Kukoc 1-3 10 24, MILMIRams 19-20 1-1 21, Kukoc 1-3 7-10 14, MILMIRAMS — Sprewell 5-13 0-0 10, Garnett 10-15 5-6 25, Johnson 6-1 0-0 10, Tamara 1-2 0-2, Husborn 6-110-113, Thomas 1-3 2-4 Carter 4-11 0-1 8, Holberg 3-6 3-4 11. Totals 4-28-5 1-42 10.3

42-85 14-20 103.

42-85 14-20 103. Milwaukee Milwaukee

Spurs 102. Bulls 99

CHICAGO - Nocioni 4-6 5-6 13, Davis 6-10 -0 12, Curry 3-7 3-3 9, Hinrich 3-10 0-0 6, Duhon 3-7 0-0 6, Chandler 3-4 2-4 8, Gordon -15 5-6 20, Harrington 7-9 6-8 20, Griffin 1-1 -1 3, Platkowski 1-2 0-1 2. Totals 38-71 22-29

1.1, Platkovski 1: 20 1.2, Totals 38-71 2: 22 SMA ARTONIO D. Sowen 18-9 0.2, Duncain 12-20 7-7 31, Nesterovic 1-0 0.2, Parker 1915 5-2, Ginolis 1-47-719, Massenburg 1915 5-2, Ginolis 1-47-719, Massenburg 1915 5-2, Ginolis 1-47-719, Massenburg 1915 5-48, Ginolis 1-47-71, Totals 37-8, Ginolis 1915 5-48, Ginolis 1915 5

Assists—Chicago 16 (Duhon 5), San Antonio 19 (Parker 8). Total Fouls—Chicago 28, San Antonio 22. Technicals—Chandler, Davis, Horry. A—18,797. (18,500).

Pacers 106. Trail Blazers 97

INDIANA — Jackson 9-20 3-4 24, Foster 2-9 0-2 4, Davis 0-5 1-2 1, Miller 8-13 6-6 24, F.Jones 8-12 5-5 23, Johnson 3-5 3-4 9, Crosh-ere 5-8 0-0 12, Pollard 1-3 0-0 2, Gill 2-6 0-0 5, J.Jones 0-3 2-2 2.

JJones V-3 & F. L. Totals 38-8 20-25 106.

PORTLAND — Mille 13-17 0-1 26,
Abdur-Rahim 11-18 4-4 27, Przybillia 3-4 2-58,
Stoudamire 5-14 2-2 12, Teffair 3-7 4-4 10,
Frahm 1-6 1-2 4, Radilft 2-2 2-36, Outlaw 2-5
0-9 4. Totals 40-73 15-21 97.
Indiana 24 30 24 19-97
24 30 24 19-97

0-04. Trolais 60-73 1.5-21 97, 124 22 30-106 Indiana I

SuperSonics 95, Pistons 87

SuperSonics 95, Pistons 87
DETROIT - Privile 18 - 24 s. R. Wallace 6-1
2-2 10. R. Wallace 6-8 d-11; 22 lilliugs 5-15-2-2
2-10. R. Wallace 6-8 d-11; 23 lilliugs 5-15-2-2
2-10. R. Wallace 6-8 d-11; 23 lilliugs 5-15-2-2
2-10. R. Wallace 6-1 d-12 lilliugs 5-15-2-2
2-15 lilliugs 5-10-2-2
2-15 lilliugs 5-10-2
2-15 li

Lakers 108, Mavericks 103

DALLAS - Howard +12 2-2 13. Novirtizil 7-17 8-10 23. Bradley 3-4 0-6 5, Stackhouse 4-6 18, Henderson 1-11-13, Van Horn 2-10 4-4 6-18, Henderson 1-11-13, Van Horn 2-10 4-4 6-18, Henderson 1-11-13, Van Horn 2-10 4-4 7. Charles 3-8-5-6 103. 10-14 1-14 4-2 20, Odom 8-10 2-6 18, Milm 4-7 2-3 10, Bryant 13-27 1-16 40, Altins 3-9 0-7, Grant 1-2-0-2, Jones 2-6-0-4, Walton 2-31-25, Cook 1-10-6 Technic Homes 1-0-0-0-0 10, Total 4-261 2-3-5 Technic Homes 1-0-0-0-0 10, Total 4-261 2-3-5 Technic Homes 1-0-0-0-0 10, Total 4-261 2-3-5

LA. Lakers 25 27 28 28—106
Three-Point Goals—Dallas 2-10 (Terry 1-2
Nowitzki 1-3, Daniels 0-1, Howard 0-1, Van
Hom 0-1, Stackhouse 0-2), LA. Lakers 1-18
(Atkins 1-6, Walton 0-1, Odom 0-2, Bryant 0-4,
Jones 0-5). Fouled Out-Hone. Rebounds—Dallas 49 (Nowitzki 13), LA. Lakers 59
(Odom 11), Assists—Dallas 14 (Terry 6), LA.
Lakers 26 (Atkins 10), Total Fouls—Dallas 22,
LA. Lakers 26. Atkins 10), Total Fouls—Dallas 22,
LA. Lakers 26, A —18,997. (188)

Bryant helps L.A. stay over .500

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Lakers have been sitting on the playoff bubble all season, and it's starting to feel uncomfortable So Kobe Bryant took matters into his own hands. Bryant scored 10 of his 40

points in the final 2:15 and the Lakers snapped a four-game losing streak with a 108-103 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Friday night. It was Bryant's 37th career game with 40 or more points, and his seventh this season.

Caron Butler had 20 points and Lamar Odom added 18 points and 11 rebounds, helping prevent the Lakers from slipping under the .500 mark for the first time since

they were 3-4.

"That was a big motivational factor for us," Bryant said. "We knew this was a big game and pretty much a must-win situation against a great team, and we were able to null it off.

Bryant hasn't been on a team that lost five straight since he was a high school freshman. The Lakers haven't lost more than four straight since the 1993-94 season, when they dropped their final 10 games with Magic Johnson coaching the team.

"We were on a four-game skid, and it was important for us to get off that skid," Bryant said. "No way did we want to lose five games in a row. I don't like losing two in a row, let alone five in a

The Lakers shot 51.9 percent from the field, despite going 1-for-18 from behind the three-point line. The victory put them a half-game ahead of idle Denver and a full game ahead of Minnesota in the race for the eighth and final Western Conference playoff berth

"I know a lot of people don't even think we're even going to make the playoffs. But there's no reason why we can't slide up. That's our mentality," Bryant

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Dick Nowitzki had 23 points and 13 rebounds and Jerry Stackhouse scored 19 points for the Mavericks, who have lost three of four following a six-game win-ning streak. The Mavericks have lost 27 of their last 28 against the Lakers in Los Angeles, the only victory coming last season.

Celtics 104, Bobcats 84: At Boston, Antoine Walker and Ricky Davis each scored 18 points and Gary Payton added 10

in his return to Roston's lineun Boston is 4-0 since Walker re turned to the team last week in a trade with Atlanta.

Payton, who re-signed Friday after being waived by Atlanta on Tuesday, played 21 minutes. He was traded to the Hawks - along with Tom Gugliotta, Michael Stewart and a future first-round pick - last week in the deal that

brought Walker back to Boston. Emeka Okafor had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte

Magic 111. Knicks 89: Grant Hill scored 29 points and rookie Dwight Howard added 20 points and 15 rebounds to help Orlando snap New York's three-game win-

Kelvin Cato added 14 points, Steve Francis had 13 points and nine assists and rookie Jameer Nelson had 11 points and seven assists for the Magic.

Stephon Marbury led the Knicks with 22 points.

Warriors 103, Wizards 90: At Washington, Jason Richardson scored 16 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and also had eight rebounds, four assists and three

blocks for Golden State. Troy Murphy added 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors.

Larry Hughes scored 27 points for the Wizards.



The Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, left, passes the ball past the Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki during the second half Friday night.

Heat 104, Kings 83: At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 22 points and Miami made Alon Mourning's formal homecoming a good one, getting double-digit scoring from all five starters.

Shaquille O'Neal had 18 points, giving him 23,177 for his career and tying him with Adrian Dant ley for 17th in NBA history. Eddie Jones had 17 points — including a perfect 5-for-5 night from three-point range — in Miami's

fourth straight victory. Mourning, who rejoined the Heat this week, played the final 3:37 and finished with four points and four rebounds.

Grizzlies 86, Raptors 75: Shane Battier scored 12 of his career-high 33 points in the fourth quarter to help host Memphis rally for coach Mike Fratello's 600th career victory.

Hornets 92, Jazz 85: J.R. Smith and P.J. Brown each scored 14 points to help host New Orleans snap Utah's three-game winning streak.

Jackson Vroman added 12 points and nine rebounds.

Andrei Kirilenko led Utah with

21 points Timberwolves 103, Bucks 97:

At Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak 28 points, Kevin Garnett scored added 25 and Anthony Carter had a season-high 13 assists for Min-

Michael Redd had 24 points and seven rebounds for Milwau-

Spurs 102. Bulls 99: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan made an 18-foot jumper with 38 seconds left to break a tie and Manu Ginobili added four late free throws for San Antonio

Duncan finished with 31 points and 13 rebounds, Tony Parker had 25 points and eight assists and Ginobili added 19 points — 13 in the second half.

Pacers 106, Blazers 97: Reg gie Miller and Stephen Jackson scored 24 points each and Indiana spoiled Portland coach Kevin

Pritchard's debut at home. The Pacers snapped three-game losing streak. Shareef Abdur-Rahim led Port-

land with 27 points. Pritchard took over the Blazers as interim coach this week when the team unexpectedly fired Maurice Maurice Cheeks.

SuperSonics 95, Pistons 87: At Seattle, Rashard Lewis scored 18 points and Jerome James had on highs of 16 points and seven rebounds for Seattle against Detroit's bruising front

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 15 points. The Pistons were coming off a loss in Phoenix on Thursday night that snapped their eight-game winning streak.

Pacers put O'Neal on injured list

PORTLAND, Ore. — All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal was placed on the injured list Friday by the Indiana Pacers, one day after he sprained his right shoulder in a game at Denver. O'Neal has a subluxated sprain

> NBA briefs

of the right shoulder and will miss at least games. He had an MRI evamination before

Friday night's 106-97 victory over Portland, then watched the game from the end of the bench, his arm in a sling.

The Pacers also waived forward Michael Curry and signed veteran free agent forward Dale Davis, who was waived by New Orleans this week.

O'Neal was injured with 41/2 minutes left in the second quarter against the Nuggets when his right arm was knocked back by

Denver's Francisco Elson "It was the most painful thing I've ever been through in my career, but it's part of the game,"

O'Neal said. Pistons sign C Campbell

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - The Detroit Pistons added depth to their frontcourt Friday by signing center Elden Campbell

The Pistons used Campbell, 36, to guard Shaquille O'Neal during last season's NBA Finals victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bulls' Deng out 2-4 weeks

CHICAGO - The Chicago Bulls placed rookie Luol Deng on the injured list Friday because of a sprained right ankle that is exnected to sideline him 2.4 weeks Deng, a 6-foot-8 guard-forward, was injured in the opening

minute against Houston on Tues day night when he stepped on the foot of Rockets center Yao Ming. Deng, the seventh overall pick

in the draft, is averaging 12.2 points and 5.4 rebounds in 54 games this season.

Rebirth: Defense, Gordon's finishing kick fuel Bulls' run Jan. 24, and are holding opponents to 42.2 per-

REBIRTH, FROM BACK PAGE

took over, with players never sure of their role. Paxson kept prep-to-pro projects Chandler and Curry, and shed anyone who wasn't a tenacious, defensive-minded player

He picked up Kirk Hinrich in his first draft, then hit upon a bonanza last summer. In addition to taking Gordon with the No. 3 pick, he traded for Luol Deng, the seventh pick, He added Chris Duhon and signed Andres Nocioni, who'd spent the past two years playing in Spain before helping Argentina win gold in the Athens Olympics

Paxson dumped high-priced, long-term contracts to give the Bulls salary-cap flexibility. "Nobody's ever had a place here, as far as

knowing what you've got to come in and do," Chandler said. "Now I feel we've put together a nucleus that each guy has his individual thing that's making us win.

It starts with defense The Bulls didn't allow 100 points for 26 straight games from Dec. 4 to

cent shooting, second in the NBA. They're sixth in the league in scoring defense

On offense, Curry, Hinrich, Gordon and Deng average in double figures. Gordon (14.6) and Deng (12.2) rank second and third among rookies, and Gordon is fifth in the NBA in three-point percentage (44.7). Gordon is generating some star power, too,

thanks to his knack for monster fourth quarters. He's had double-figure fourth quarters in 16 games, most of any player in the NBA.

"I told him he might as well just stay in the locker room and we'll just get a buzzer for him for the fourth quarter," Chandler joked. "He'll run out and rip off his cape and get the crowd

Some fans have even dubbed him Ben 'Rhymes with Jordan' Gordon.

"It's flattering, but I try to block that out," Gordon said. "I shouldn't even be mentioned in the same sentence as him. I know fans don't mean anything and they're just having fun.

But as a player, you have so much respect for a guy like that. I kind of just want to shy away from that.

The Bulls aren't dynasty material just yet. They still turn the ball over way too much, a whopping 17.5 average per game. They've gotten lax on defense lately, allowing 100 points or more in 11 of their past 14 games entering Saturday's game at Milwaukee.

In Tuesday's blowout loss to Houston, the Rockets had a double-digit lead by the end of the first quarter and led by as many as 39. Tracy McGrady scored 32 despite not playing in the fourth quarter, and Yao Ming had more points (14) than minutes (11).

"We've been feeling a little too good about ourselves on occasion," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said after that game. "Hopefully, this will be something that knocks us out of it and will bring us down to earth."

Fans, though, aren't likely to abandon their giddy optimism. The Bulls' past five home games sold out, and the average attendance of 19,439 trails only Detroit, Dallas, Miami and New York

Mickelson continues birdie barrage at Doral

Leads Andrade by two after near-record 36-hole score

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Phil Mickelson was atop the leader board for the ninth consecutive round in stroke play, and no one was terribly surprised — least of

Golf roundup all, his closest pursuer Friday in the Ford Championship at Doral. Mickelson showed up

at Doral nearly five agame that appears to need no work, then played the Blue Monster without a bogey for a 6-under 66 that gave him a two-shot lead over Billy Andrade.

"I don't know what the big hoopla about him is," Andrade said after a 66. "He's one of the best players in the world. He has been one of the best players in the world since he was 12. When you get guys that are that talented and you get or rolls, they're obviously tough to beat."

Mickelson is on a roll in second rounds; his average score is 64.8 in five tournaments. That includes a 60 in Phoenix, which gave him a share of the lead. He's been there ever since, including a wire-to-wire victory last month at Pebble Beach.

"The only thing that matters is leading on Sunday," said Mickelson, whose 14-under 130 total was one short of the 36-hole record at Doral. "That's kind of the goal right now."

Mickelson was the first to concede that this tournament is far from over. There are a bevy of world-class players on the Blue Monster, and several remain in range.

Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria
Olazabal had a 69 and was at 11-under 133.

Olazabal had a 69 and was at 11-under 133, and Billy Mayfair birdied three of the last four holes for a 67 and was another shot

Tiger Woods went eight consecutive holes without a par — that included three straight bogeys for the second time this year — for a 2-under 70 that put him in a pack of players at 9-under 135 that included No. 1 Vijay Singh, David Toms and defending champion Craig Parry.

There were so many players jockeying for position that when Sergio Garcia missed a par putt on the 18th hole, he dropped 10 spots on the leader board, down to 8-under 136 with Retief Goosen and Jim Furvk.

"There's so many good players right there," Mickelson said. "I just feel like I've got to go out and keep pushing to make birdies if I want to stay there."

When Andrade chipped in from 50 feet for birdie on the ninth hole, that broke a 10-way tie for the lead. Before long, it became a race between him and Mickelson to see who wound up on top going into the weekend. They were on different sides of the course, and the final hole was decisive.

Andrade finished on the 18th hole, and he pulled his tee shot into the water. After taking a drop and hitting into shaggy grass atop a bunker, he had to make a slick 20-footer to salvage bogev.

Mickelson looked like he might be in trouble when he fanned his tee shot on the par-5 eighth, headed behind some palm trees at best or into the water at worst. Instead, it smacked a fan in the right shoulder and bounced back into the short grass.

"Just another fairway hit," Mickelson said with a sneaky grin. He finished on the par-3 ninth with a

7-iron into 8 feet for his 16th birdie of the tournament.
"There's still two days left here, and I'm

"There's still two days left here, and I'm going to put up a great fight," Andrade said. "And hopefully, it's enough to beat him and everybody else."

The Blue Monster, already susceptible without strong wind, was softer because of overnight rain.

Els trails Jimenez by one in Dubai DUBAI. United Arab Emirates

Miguel Ángel Jimenez posted a tidy 4-under 68 on Saturday to take a one-shot lead in the Dubai Desert Classic.

After making a four-putt double bogey from 20 feet on the first hole, Ernie Els made seven birdies, shot 67 and enters the final round one stroke behind the leader.

"I still don't know what I did there on the first hole," said Els, trying to win for the first time in 2005. "I guess you are never too old to learn. You have got to respect the old game. I did try on each of those putts."

Jimenez was at 16-under 200 and will be paired with Els on Sunday. Colin Montgomerie, ranked No. 63 and

Colin Montgomerie, ranked No. 63 and seeking to get into the top 50 to secure an invitation to the Masters, fired a 6-under 66 and trails by three.



F

Phil Mickelson, who has led nine consecutive rounds in stroke-play events, has played 36 holes at Doral in 14-under, one shot off the tournament record.

Han leads LPGA event in Mexico HUIXOUILUCAN, Mexico — Annika So

renstam shot a 2-under 70 on Friday in her first competitive round of the year, leaving her four strokes behind leader Hee-Won Han in the MasterCard Classic, the first LPGA Tour event in Mexico since 1975. Moira Dunn trails the leader by two

after a 68. Patricia Meunier-Lebouc, Brandie Burton, Giulia Sergas and Gloria Park opened with 69s, and Cristie Kerr and Carin Koch were in a group at 70.



Baseball has a chance to tell the truth

ark McGwire, here's your chance.
Go ahead, Sammy Sosa, step up there with Big Mac and proclaim your innocence.



you, And Barry Bonds? Well, for some reason you weren't invited but isn't this really the best place to say it wasn't steroids after all? Talk about perfect timing. Just as the major

league season seemed destined to open under the black cloud of steroids, someone is giving baseball's gargantuan sluggers a chance to finally speak the truth about those nasty

An invitation for Barry Bonds to set aside a day for a soul-baring chat in Congress (under oath)

rumors about performance en-

No, it's not those pesky reporters, the ones Bonds last week called the real liars in this whole muscular scandal Listen to

muscular scandal. Listen to Barry and he'll tell you that reporters envious of his \$20 million salary are really to blame.

"It's almost comical, basically," Bonds said. "Are you guys jealous, upset, disappointed, what?"

No, Barry, We're not. Like most of America, we're just wondering how you, Sammy and Big Mac suddenly grew so big and strong and started hitting every other pitch you saw out of the park. We're wondering how you hit 37 home runs in 552 at-bats in 1998, and three years later hit 73 home runs in 76 fewer at-hats.

There's probably a reasonable explanation for it. Good nutrition, maybe. Some extra time in the weight room probably helped, and it didn't hurt that pitchers couldn't pitch you inside because

of the body armor you wear.
But here's the great thing,
Barry. Now you have a chance to
set things straight so that America can celebrate with you when
you pass Babe Ruth this year and
take aim at Hank Aaron's home
run record.

A guy named Tom Davis is offering the opportunity of a lifetime — and just in time.

You probably don't know Tom Davis. He's not the outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers who played in your father's day, nor the clubhouse attendant who makes sure your recliner is prop-

erly set up next to your locker. This Davis is a Republican congressman from Virginia who just happens to be the chairman of the House Government Reform Committee. Just what government reform has to do with steroids in baseball is somewhat of a mystery, but that's not really the

Like you, Davis wants to set things straight. He and some others on his committee want to air out a story largely told before now behind closed doors.

Oh, yeah. Two more things before you decide to go, Barry. He wants to do it March 17 in front of America. And he wants to do it with everyone under oath.

"There's a cloud over baseball, and perhaps a public discussion of the issues, with witnesses testifying under oath, can provide a glimpse of sunlight," Davis said Thursday.

Actually, Barry, you were left off the initial invitation list for some reason. Davis probably knew you and your teammates had an important exhibition game against the Texas Rangers that day and didn't want to bother

Big Mac was invited, though. So was Sammy, Rafael Palmeiro, Frank Thomas, Curt Schilling and baseball's steroid poster child, the newly lovable Jason Giambi. A guy named Jose Canseco, who's also been in the news a lot lately, was also asked to attend and plans to be there.

It's OK, though. We know you want to clear your name from all the scurrilous insinuations that somehow modern medicine did more to help you break the season home run record than the many hours you spend in the weight room.

weight room.
We know you'd like to be there.
We know you'd like to be there.
We know seem likes and tells the
congresses with the hever did
anything more lilegal than cork a
bat. We know you want to be
there when McGwire — assuming he doesn't have a golf date
that day—testifies under the penalty of law that Canseco must
have mistaken him for someone else
while injecting steroids in
land Colisemus stalls at the Outland Colisemus stalls at the Out-

And what would be better than to see Canseco exposed as the lying, cheating scum all your brethren thinks he is? In front of America, and under oath. Meaning, everyone has to tell the truth.

Under oath.

Barry, have your guy call Davis' guy and see if you can wangle a special pass. Ask Felipe Alou for the afternoon off, have the Giants charter you a jet, and get to Washington D.C., as early as you can.

Don't use the excuse that your lawyers told you not to say anything until the trials are over in San Francisco. You haven't been charged with anything, so you're free to talk as much as you want.

Don't be surprised, though, if Big Mac doesn't show. He hasn't said much of anything since he left baseball so quickly and, besides, he might have a good tee

time that day.

Sammy might not be there either, and Schilling says he'll have to check with his union rep before making up his mind.

It wouldn't surprising at all if Canseco is the only one who appears March 17. And that might be only so he can set up a kiosk to sell his books on the steps of Capitol Hill.

But there is no downside to attending, Barry, if you're telling the truth. Tell them it ain't so, that you would never knowingly take drugs to hit more home runs.

Don't be afraid to crash the party, even if you're not an honored guest.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@ap.org











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SPORTS



Race teams for Penske, Andretti figure to be front-runners during IRL season. Page 42



Center Eddy Curry, above, leads the Bulls in scoring with a 15.5-point per game average. Chicago's renaissance has been led by a defense that holds opponents to 42.2 percent shooting, second best in the NBA.

After an extended free fall into futility Chicago is excited about hoops again

BY NANCY ARMOUR The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Go to a Chicago Bulls game, and it's beginning to look like the good old days.

The United Center is rocking, with loud, passionate fans packing every seat. Even that third level of boxes, so high up in the rafters they may as well be on the roof, are occupied. Team gear is back in fashion, too. There's no shame in busting out that Bulls sweatshirt, and it's OK to replace an old-school Michael

Jordan jersey with something more current. After six years of mind-numbing futility, when the only thing left to play for at this time of year was avoiding last place, the Bulls have come roaring back. With one of the most remarkable turnarounds in the NBA, Chicago is on the verge of making the playoffs for the first time since 1998.

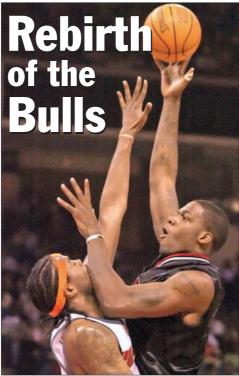
"The Bulls are so much fun to watch," said Mark Grogan, who brought his 12-year-old daughter, Eileen, and 10-year-old son, Patrick, to Tuesday night's game. "People are really excited."

And, to be honest, a little stunned.

The Bulls have been abysmal since Jordan and friends won the last of Chicago's six NBA titles. They lost 341 games from 1999-2004, so inept they made even the Los Angeles Chippers look good. They're on their third coach since Phil Jackson left, and so many players have come and gone they could form their own learner.

So when the Bulls began the year 0-9, matching the franchise record for the worst season-opening stretch, even some players thought, "Here we go again."

"I will admit I had that feeling," Tyson Chandler said. "But after we started winning, I knew we would consistently do so."



Chicago's Eddy Curry, right, shoots over Charlotte's Melvin Ely during a game last week. The Bulls (29-26) are one victory from matching their highest win total since Michael Jordan left the team.

The turning point came Nov. 24, when the Bulls beat the Utah Jazz. Not only was it their first victory, but it snapped Chicago's 37-game, six-year losing streak on its annual November western road trip.

"When we won that game, that gave us some confidence," rookie Ben Gordon said. "We got our first win in so-and-so years. That was something positive to build off of."

The Bulls won five straight in mid-December, their longest winning streak since Jordan's last season. They were 20-8 from Jan. 1 to March 1, second-best in the NBA behind only the defending champion Detroit Pistons.

With 29 victories heading into the weekend, they already had surpassed last year's total and were just one victory shy of matching their high-water mark in the post-Jordan era.

They entered the weekend as the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference.

Granted, the East is weak. But Chicago went 11-4 against Western Conference teams after that ugly November road frip. Included in that collection was the team's first victory at Dallas in eight years, and its first sweep of the Minnosta Timberwolves since the 1996-97 season.

"Even though we started off losing, it wasn't the same kind of losing that we had been doing the past three years and I definitely felt ... we still would, at some point, turn things around," Eddy Curry said. "Kind of hard to say I thought we'd be where we are now, but definitely felt that we were moving in the right direction."

right direction."

The Bulls didn't have much of an identity or a plan when general manager John Paxson

SEE REBIRTH ON PAGE 45



Webber's best game with Philly pushes 76ers over Cavs; Bryant's 40 points lift Lakers

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Brees' contract with Chargers is a big deal; Jets, Skins complete trade of WRs

Page 40



Mickelson mauls Doral, leads star-studded field by two shots

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Canseco set to testify about steroids on Capitol Hill Page 41